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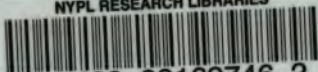
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THE END OF THE WORLD

Cog -

(Henderson)

AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
BRITISH SETTLEMENT
OF
HONDURAS;

BEING
A VIEW OF ITS COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES,
SOIL, CLIMATE, NATURAL HISTORY, &c.

[To which are added,

SKETCHES
OF THE
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS
OF THE
MOSQUITO INDIANS,

PRECEDED BY THE JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE TO THE
MOSQUITO SHORE.

ILLUSTRATED BY A MAP.

SECOND EDITION, ENLARGED.

^{George}
By CAPT. HENDERSON, 44th REG'T.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR R. BALDWIN, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1811.



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NEW YORK

TO
MAJOR GENERAL BARROW,

LATE HIS MAJESTY'S SUPERINTENDANT; COMMANDER OF THE
TROOPS; &c. &c.

AT HONDURAS.

SIR,

AT the moment I submit the following pages to the indulgence of the Public, I feel a very sincere gratification that I am also enabled to offer an acknowledgement to you, however unequal to my wishes, of the perfect recollection I hold of the favour under which I have been placed.

And I beg you to believe that, in common with many others, I cannot but recur with singular satisfaction to the period of service passed under your command, throughout the whole of which you invariably shewed that the duties of the Superior and the urbanity of the Gentleman were not incompatible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient

and most humble Servant,

- GEORGE HENDERSON,

Capt. 44th Regiment.

*London,
Dec. 1809.*

P R E F A C E.

IT is most anxiously hoped that the succeeding attempt may not be found altogether divested of interest. Yet it must be confessed, that it would very materially encourage the confidence of the writer of it, could he in any way be persuaded, that an excuse for the imperfections with which it abounds would be as readily admitted as he is willing to acknowledge the necessity for making it.

It will not be denied, that the opportunities for useful investigation,

even amidst the fluctuations of a military life, are often found singularly favourable: but, at the same time, it is probably to be regretted, that the ability and inclination to profit by these advantages are not more frequently united. On some occasions, it may nevertheless prove inconvenient, that the latter should considerably exceed the former; a circumstance which, it is far from being insisted, may not be too conspicuously illustrated in the present instance.

Parvum parva decent

conveys a truth, which, if rightly borne in remembrance, would prevent

much evil; and that might, if it had been closely regarded, have entirely removed the necessity of this supplication. But it is more easy to implore forgiveness than to avoid error; and the liberal indulgence, which has been so frequently extended to faults of similar description, may perhaps have indirectly contributed to the commission of one more.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE
SECOND EDITION.

IN offering a new Edition of this slight performance to the world, it would very distantly accord with the duty and inclination of its author, if an expression of the obligation he feels for the reception it has received were entirely withheld.

In its present shape, some additional matter will be found connected with it; and an endeavour has been made to confer on the whole a less imperfect arrangement. It is likewise trusted, it will be discovered that the suggestions, which an encouraging and candid criticism has supplied, have not been altogether disregarded. Still it is believed, that the labour of correction has been greatly diminished from the extreme moderation with which the task of pointing it out has been exercised.

June, 1811.

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ACCOUNT
OF THE
BRITISH SETTLEMENT
OF
HONDURAS.

CHAP. I.

Geographical position of the British Establishment of Honduras. Short political account of the condition of the Settlers until the present period. Climate. Description of the Town of Balize. Outline of the Coast, &c. &c. First Settlers exposed to hostile Indians.

THE British Settlement of Honduras is situated in the province of Yucatan, or Jucatan, a peninsula extending from the province of Honduras to the sea northwardly, forming the Bay of Campeachy on the west, and the Bay of Honduras on

B.

the east. It extends from about 16 to 21 deg. north latitude, and from about 84 to 94 deg. west longitude. This part of America was discovered by Columbus in 1502.

It is not probable, if authentic materials could be found, to furnish it, that much instruction could be derived, or that curiosity would be particularly gratified in a recital of the manners and pursuits of the early adventurers in this part of the world. It certainly was long, after it had become a place of considerable resort, before any thing like the customs of civilized life were known to it. But it will scarcely be expected that such could have been known, or at least assented to, by a description of persons, of whom perhaps the greater number had forfeited all pretensions of the kind by the irregularity of their conduct in the countries they had left. Those persons, it must also be recollected, were of various nations, and possibly bore little resem-

blance in any way to each other but in the desperate state of their fortunes. And it may be very well believed, that the sole motive which first allured their steps to this coast, would be found in the temptation it then offered, to repair their condition by plunder and rapine. When, however, their atrocities had grown into a system, and had become so formidable as to engage the attention of other quarters, and to require correction, they, no doubt, found it expedient, in some degree, to relinquish them for habits of a more regular and less lawless kind. Thus the path of industry was opened; new and more respectable sources of wealth discovered, which have led to consequences highly advantageous to commerce, and no less beneficial to the state that has encouraged and protected it.

Previous to the treaty of Paris, in 1763, the English settlers had established them-

selves with the friendly approval of the Indians, their immediate neighbours, on the east coast of Yucatan: the nearest Spanish settlements being those of Bacalar to the northward, and of Omoa and Truxillo to the southward. An inconsiderable military body is kept at each of the former places, but the latter is a situation of much more importance, possessing a regular force, and having very extensive fortifications. The harbour of Truxillo is also large, open, and commodious, an advantage that is connected with very few places on this immense coast.

On concluding the treaty of peace, in 1763, by the 17th article it was stipulated, that all the fortifications which had been formed by the subjects of Britain in the Bay of Honduras should within four months after its ratification be entirely demolished. The works, which had been raised for their de-

fence were consequently destroyed; and in consideration of this, his Catholic Majesty engaged to protect them during their residence in the country. And by the reciprocal article (36) of the treaty of Madrid, the king of Spain further engaged, "that, in case of war, notice should be given to the respective subjects of the King of Great Britain, that six months would be granted them to remove their merchandise and effects without molestation." This condition is understood to have made part of every subsequent treaty between the two nations.

Truth, however, urges the recital, that notwithstanding the above engagements, so liberally made and so solemnly concluded, in the month of September, 1779, the subjects of Great Britain, without any previous information being given to them on the part of the government of Spain, of any misunderstanding having taken

place between the countries, were attacked in their defenceless state by a strong force, their properties materially injured, and their persons seized and treated in a way of rather unusual severity. Many were blindfolded and put closely in irons, and all of them, of different sexes and ages, marched from their homes to Merida, the capital of Yucatan, afterwards countermarched to the coast, and thence shipped to the Havannah, where they were held in captivity until July, 1782, when they were suffered to return to Jamaica.

The losses sustained by many individuals by this extraordinary event amounted to a very considerable sum; and although many respectful solicitations were made to the British ministry to obtain, if possible, some indemnification from the court of Spain for the outrage, the frequent changes, added to the very fluctuating and uncertain state of public

affairs at this particular juncture, rendered all applications of the kind ineffectual.

Between the years 1779 and 1784, many of the settlers sought a refuge among the Indians on the Mosquito shore, and formed their principal establishment on Black-river, which may be deemed the north-western boundary of this nation of Indians on the shores of the Atlantic, although some geographers have carried it further in this direction. The intermediate space between it and the British settlement, confined to the coast, for of the interior little is known, is very considerable, and mostly inhabited by rude tribes of natives, with whom it has hitherto been found impracticable to form any intercourse.

In the month of November of the latter year, the treaty of convention was concluded between England and Spain, and the British subjects again took possession of their former situation. Since

this period no particular opposition has been directed towards them, with the exception of an ineffectual attack made in the year 1798. This expedition was fitted out at Bacalar, and conducted by Don O'Niel, a field-marshal in the service of Spain, but which after an imperfect attempt, was forced to retire with insignificant loss from before St. George's Key, a distance of ten or twelve miles from the chief settlement of Balize. It was computed that the number of the enemy employed on this occasion amounted to near three thousand.*

* The sense his Majesty entertained of the united exertions of the Navy and Army, and the settlers, he was pleased to express, by directing the following communications to be made to them through Lieutenant-general the Earl of Balcarres.

Extract of a letter from his Grace the Duke of Portland, to Lieutenant-general the Earl of Balcarres, dated, Whitehall, 8 February, 1799.

“ My Lord,

“ I had great pleasure in laying before his

Previous to this attack, commissioners had been regularly appointed by the Spanish government to visit the British settlement at certain stated periods. The chief purport of their mission was to exact a scrupulous observance on the part of the settlers of the several conditions entered into by the respective countries: that no forts or fortifications of any kind should be again erected; that the limits

Majesty the account you transmitted of the defeat of the Spanish Flotilla, in its attack upon our Settlement of Honduras.

“The able and judicious conduct of Lieutenant-colonel Barrow, and Captain Moss of the Merlin sloop, the bravery of the troops and seamen under their respective commands, and the spirited exertions of the Settlement in general, on this occasion, have been such as to receive his Majesty’s approbation, which your Lordship is hereby directed to signify through Lieutenant-colonel Barrow, together with the just sense his Majesty entertains of their gallant and meritorious conduct.”

A true extract.

(Signed)

BALCARRES.

assigned for the cutting of mahogany and dye-woods should not be exceeded; that no plantations beyond those of a certain extent should be formed, nor any but particular modes of culture pursued on them. The above event however, occasioned the discontinuance of these visits, and the settlers, in consequence of it, have ever since considered themselves less bounden to an observance of their original obligation.

The intercourse which subsists between the English and Spaniards is chiefly carried on by a communication with Merida, the capital of the province of Yucatan. During war the English are not permitted to approach nearer Merida than the *look-out* post, as it is termed, of St. Antonio, which is a short distance from the town of Bacalar: from this last place the public dispatches are forwarded by Indian couriers to the capital.

A more reluctant disposition has

usually been shewn, but particularly latterly, in the southern Spanish dependencies of this part of America, to hold an intimacy with the English settled at Honduras, than in those situated more northwardly. This, it is believed, is more to be attributed to the predominating influence of foreign intrigue, than to any inclination of the sort in the people of these dependencies themselves.

This extensive quarter of the world and every thing connected with it—its institutions civil and religious, yet more deficient in administration and form than the most imperfect of both in the parent country, and assailable at all points, presented too spacious an opening, a prospect too inviting, to escape the regard of the industrious and designing theorists of the present day; and could scarcely remain uninterrupted by the effects of a system that seems destined to reach al-

most every state, and from which neither excellence nor deformity is free.

In the political changes that now seem to await the Spanish Transatlantic possessions, in favour of which, the necessity being of no ordinary kind, the most inveterate enemy to such attempts must feel a disposition to relax his creed, it will be well if a jealous and vigilant regard be directed towards all foreign interference whatsoever: for it cannot require any profuse share of skill in such matters to determine, that the less the obligation they shall incur in this respect the more will their condition appear likely to be improved.

The climate of this part of the American continent is greatly superior to that of most other parts of the same vast portion of the globe, either in higher or lower degrees of latitude. It is equally superior to the climate of the West India

islands generally ; for persons, whose health and constitutions have become impaired from the effects of the latter, very frequently acquire a sudden restoration of both after an arrival at Honduras.

With the exception of a few months in the year, this country is constantly refreshed by regular sea-breezes, accompanied by an average of heat that may be taken at the temperature of 80 degrees. The seasons have also their marked difference, though nature may not have determined the shades of variation with the same strong lines which she has affixed to most other situations under her dominion. Within the tropics, a change of wind, or a shower of rain, often produces a sudden and singular revolution in atmospheric regularity, and occasions a no less instantaneous effect on the human system. The periodical rains which fall in this country, and that are neither considered unseasonable nor extraordinary,

might almost presage a returning deluge, did they happen in some other parts of the world. But the *wet-season*, as it is emphatically denominated, is not considered here the season of disease. It is fatally otherwise with the whole of the West Indies. The most frequent and violent instances of sickness which occur at Honduras, happen during the *dry-season*, which is usually comprehended within the months of April, May, and June. The sun, during this space, is always most powerful, and its scorching rays are not mitigated by the same uniformity of breeze that prevails during the other months of the year. At the beginning of October, what are called the *norths*, north winds, commence, and generally continue, with little variation, till the return of February or March. Whilst these winds last, the mornings and evenings are cold, frequently unpleasantly so; and what in this country is understood by

a *wet-north*, might perhaps furnish no very imperfect idea of a November day in England; a *dry north*, on the contrary, is healthful, agreeable, and invigorating. The state of the weather during the *norths* is extremely variable; for a depression of more than 15 degrees in the thermometer has been remarked in the space of a few hours. Thunder storms are frequent during the greater part of the year, and in the hottest months are often tremendously violent.

The town of *Belize*, which is placed at the mouth of the river of the same name,* is the only regular establishment which the English settlers have formed in this country. It is immediately open to the sea; and, though the situation is low, the groups of lofty *cocoa-nut* trees, and thickly interspersed and lively foliage of

* The Spaniards invariably name this river, *WALLIZ*.

the *tamarind*, contribute to give a very picturesque and pleasing effect to the dwellings of the inhabitants, independent of the advantage that is conferred by their grateful shade, a luxury which only those who have felt the powerful and subduing influence of a tropical sun can fully appreciate. The regularity of the winds which prevail in this country has been mentioned, and were it not for the salubrity of these, the settlement would certainly be far less healthful than it is, as it is placed at the edge of an immense swamp which extends many miles back, and that at most seasons abounds with stagnant waters, but that during the rains is completely overflowed.

The number of houses of all descriptions contained in *Balize* may be numbered at about two hundred. Many of these, particularly such as are owned by the opulent merchants, are spacious, commodious, and well finished. They are en-

tirely built of wood, and generally raised eight or ten feet from the ground, on pillars of mahogany. The stores and offices are uniformly on the lower story, the dining and sleeping apartments on the upper. Every habitation has likewise its upper and lower piazzas, appendages which are indispensably necessary in hot climates, and that are resorted to as forming the most cool and pleasant parts annexed to it. The buildings within these few years have mostly been shingled, an improvement, which, independent of the security it affords from accident, at the same time furnishes a more finished appearance to the town. Before the introduction of this, the roofs were entirely thatched with a material of the country; the leaves of the palmetto-tree (*Chamærops excelsa*) and which has obtained the name of bay-thatch. It supplies an excellent and durable defence against the weather, and is found particularly valuable for

plantation buildings and those of an inferior kind.

The town being situated as previously described, renders any intercourse with the interior country, especially by land, extremely difficult; no roads having been formed to it, nor is it possible there could without extraordinary labour and expense: travelling to this can therefore only be conveniently performed by water; a distance, however, of four or five miles has been cut through the swamp, which, in fine weather, affords a tolerably pleasant ride on horseback; the sides of this road being profusely lined with a most agreeable variety of foliage, of which, that afforded by the stately mangrove (*rhizophora mangle*), manchineel (*hippomane mancinella*)*, and poponax, is

* The deleterious quality of the fruit of the manchineel is well known. It is believed, however, in this country, that cattle do not experience any injury from eating it. This noxious property may

most predominant: the last is a singularly pleasant tree, from the delicate fragrance of its small yellow flower. A varnish species of the *mimosa*, or sensitive-plant, is also found in every spot.

In all directions, the approach of the extensive coast which lies contiguous to the bay of Honduras, is attended with imminent anxiety and danger; and the difficulty of the navigation is alarmingly demonstrated by the numerous remains of vessels that have been wrecked on the different reefs and keys which are so abundantly dispersed along it. The hazard is great at all times, but during the continuance of the *north-winds*, the danger becomes much increased. The weather

also be considered as being connected with the leaves or bark of the tree, a soldier belonging to the 5th West Indian Regiment having been completely deprived of the sight of one of his eyes, by the insinuation of some drops of rain which had fallen from it whilst he was sleeping under its shade.

at such seasons is usually hazy and thick, and the currents, which in this part of the world, are peculiarly governed by the influence of the winds, run with such extraordinary and unequal rapidity, as frequently disappoints all calculation, and renders every precaution ineffectual. There is another thing which may also be worthy of remark: so deceitful are the different *keys* found from the general resemblance they bear to each other, that the most experienced seaman, when placed amongst them, often becomes fatally perplexed from the impossibility he finds of accurately ascertaining his situation. Indeed, on making this coast, it is seldom safe to proceed without a pilot. On taking a departure from Honduras, the hazard becomes, if possible, greater than that of approaching it, from the increased number of the foregoing impediments. The first object to attain in this instance is to make what are called

the *Northern Triangles*, which are three *keys* immediately close together, of a form analogous to that which their name imports, and distant in a N.N.E. direction about 10 leagues from Balize. A further departure is then taken for Cape Antonio, on the west side of the Island of Cuba. The making of this last place is considered as most important on the voyage homeward, for it has sometimes happened that vessels failing in this respect have been driven, by the force of currents and light winds, into the Gulf of Mexico, and not unfrequently remained becalmed there many weeks, or have had to beat up for the Gulf of Florida an equally tedious time.

Many of the *keys* contiguous to the shores of Honduras are of considerable extent; and some of them in particular spots are cultivated, chiefly by the persons engaged in turtling and fishing. The soil connected with them is gene-

rally found, however, of the most sterile description, being principally composed of decayed shells with an intermixture of sand, and which but imperfectly rewards the labour that is bestowed on it. A species of samphire is usually found to overspread the greater part of them, and on most of them the cocoa-nut and sea-grape trees are abundant.

The largest of these keys named Turneff, which is a cluster of several small ones divided by creeks and lagoons, but described under the above general appellation, is but a short distance from Balize, and immediately in the channel to it from Jamaica. This at first is often taken by strangers to the coast for the main-land, to which its resemblance is very great, and that consequently renders it deserving of particular regard.

St. George's-Key, about 3 leagues distant in a N. E. direction from Balize, is a most agreeable and healthful spot, and

contains a number of good houses. This is much resorted to as a place of convenient retirement by the inhabitants of the settlement during the hot months. The purity of the air and other advantages, connected with it, render it likewise a desirable retreat for the sick and convalescent. Some years past, St. George's Key was the chief place of trade in this part of the world, on which the merchants almost wholly resided; and where the vessels engaged in it deposited their cargoes and again took in their lading. Many of the older inhabitants yet regret the removal of this to its present situation of Balize. The change, whatever other advantage may have attended it, may certainly be lamented on the side of health. At the period alluded to, if somewhat of exaggeration be not accompanied with the representation, disease was not known: a comparative view of the respective situations will render it

highly probable, however, that it must have been much less severely felt.

Ambergrease-Key to the northward of Balize, is also of considerable size, abounding with extensive fresh water lakes, and at most seasons, is plentifully stocked with many kinds of game. This Key is likewise said to produce Logwood, and the more valuable kind of dye-wood, named Brasiletto.

A more particular description of these spots, so numerous scattered over the whole of this coast, would extend far beyond any moderate limits; nor could any material value be affixed to it, from the little characteristic difference that would be found connected with them. It is quite probable, that several of them were inhabited by the persons employed in the cutting of logwood, a considerable time before the adjacent continent was contemplated in the same way. The situation of them no doubt afforded those ad-

venturers a much greater degree of security than they would have found on the main land, where a continued interruption, in their defenceless state, from the enmity of the Spaniards, and hostility of the Indians, must have awaited them. At this period it will be understood, that mahogany had not become an object of consideration, and, from the remote places in which it could only be found, that few were bold enough to venture in search of.

The Keys, it is also well known, were long the chosen haunts of the Buccaneers who infested this part of America; and from which at most seasons they could issue forth, equipped and supplied to carry on their depredations in the neighbouring seas, or on the contiguous shores, and to which when pursued they might retreat, protected by the intricacy of a navigation where none dare follow, and, indeed, of which few at the time knew

any thing but themselves. Of these hardy spirits and of their modes of life some traces yet remain.

Though a retrospective view of the difficulties and privations incidental to early establishments in remote countries contributes, perhaps more than any other, towards an enlargement of feeling for the human condition, yet an apology for attempting any thing of the kind in the present instance has been advanced, from an opinion, that the same might not be found possessed of sufficient interest to detain attention : still there can be little doubt, but that some portion of the energy which has compassed more sublime designs, might be found to have actuated the settler in his solitary and unprotected avocations in the history of this. Not many years past, numerous tribes of hostile Indians often left their recesses in the woods for the purpose of plunder. This they often accomplished; and if

resistance were offered, not unfrequently committed the most sanguinary murders. The habitations of these people have never been traced. Their dispositions are peculiarly ferocious, and they are always armed with bows and arrows of curious workmanship: the latter are generally thought to be poisoned. They are without cloathing of any kind, and wander over an immense extent of country but little known. The Spaniards have given to these people the general appellation of *Bravos*.

The Indians, however, of this part of America possess little resemblance to the tribes of the more northern parts of it, having neither their personal bravery, nor characteristic hardihood: and the dread of the military, whom it has been found expedient frequently to dispatch in pursuit of these fugitives, has latterly operated as a very effectual check to their occasional visits.

CHAP. II.

Consideration on the Commercial Advantages of Honduras. Agricultural Resources. Soil and Climate adapted to the culture of most of the productions of the West India Islands. Domestic Animals. Fisheries. Fruits.

IF opportunities were offered for an uninterrupted exercise of the many great commercial advantages which the settlement of Honduras possesses, it might perhaps prove as valuable to the parent country as any one of its dependencies. In point of situation, it is so favourably placed for such purposes in the Spanish American dominions, that the benefits resulting from the indulgence of a licensed trade, granted so late as 1806, have been already very sensibly felt; and there cannot be a doubt, but that a more unrestrained intercourse, especially during peace, would be productive of the most

substantial ends. This must, however, in a very essential degree, depend on Spanish colonial arrangement, which it must be confessed has seldom discovered an excess of encouragement towards any attempts of the kind; the times nevertheless, seem more favourable for this than heretofore.

It might perhaps be found the most convenient depôt of trade in this part of the world. Its immediate contiguity to so many important stations on the continent seems to strengthen this opinion, and to render it in most respects, for all the purposes required, more eligible than any of the West India or Bahama Islands.

The establishment at Balize could at once command the trade of Yucatan to the northward, and of the extensive province of Guatimala and its valuable dependencies to the southward. This province has always ranked among the first of the Spanish transatlantic possessions,

and is peculiarly rich in many articles of export, of which may be particularly enumerated a superior kind of Indigo, which has always obtained a very marked preference in the several European markets. Large quantities of this commodity sometimes find a vent by the opposite sea, but more frequently by the river Dolce, which empties itself into the Atlantic, through the Gulf of the same name. Considerable sums in specie, the produce of the colonial treasury, are also shipped at stated periods from Guatemala for Old Spain. The articles of commerce obtained from the Spaniards at present are chiefly procured by money, but it is exceedingly well understood, that goods of British manufacture, suitable to their wants, would be far more acceptable to them.

The Gulf of Dolce, which is but a few leagues distant from the English Settlement, and Truxillo, from the excellence

of its harbour, would observe very particular consideration, if an extension of our commercial intercourse should be attempted in this quarter of the world. Establishments for the purposes of trade might also, it is presumed, be advantageously formed in various parts of the neighbouring Mosquito country, and the friendship of its inhabitants, which it has been the good fortune of the English at all times to preserve, would certainly give very material encouragement to such views.

The principal articles imported at present from Europe into the Settlement of Honduras, are linens of all kinds, printed cottons, muslins of the most costly manufacture, negro clothing, broad-cloths, hosiery, hats fine and coarse, shoes, boots, earthen and glass wares, silver and plated goods, hardware and cutlery; of the latter large quantities, particularly of cutlass blades, which are used for clear-

ing the grounds of underwood. Salted provisions of different kinds, either from Britain or America, are also continually demanded for the support of the slaves.

The vast consumption, independent of any re-exportation, of most of the foregoing articles is extraordinary, if the magnitude of the Settlement be considered. This is in a great degree occasioned by the comparative affluence of the greater number of the persons comprising it. The proprietors of slaves are in general wealthy : that is, the productiveness of labour renders them so. The slaves themselves possess indulgences which are not granted to their condition in any other country. The people of colour and free-blacks, who are likewise numerous, all possess some property ; a few are rich, and are alike distinguishable for the feature which so strongly characterizes the same race throughout the West Indies, an expensive gratification

of their appetites, and an extravagant passion for dress.

Many of the vessels, however, engaged in this trade from Europe, arrive partly in ballast, a few cargoes being adequate to the demands of the country. The case is widely different with those which arrive from the States of America; for here, as it happens in our colonies generally, articles of American production are determined to be almost indispensably requisite. What are obtained in this way usually consist of flour, salt-fish, potatoes, onions, &c. &c. An importation of beef or pork is only occasionally permitted, by the Governor of Jamaica, on a representation of scarcity. Lumber of all kinds, from the same quarter, also finds a ready and advantageous market. The prohibitions exercised at Honduras towards the Americans are much the same as those used towards them in our different islands, particularly

in that of Jamaica, which in this respect must be supposed to direct.

Vessels from the United States are restricted in the size of the mahogany they are suffered to carry: this must not exceed twenty inches in the widest part, and for each ten thousand feet of the above, they are permitted to take three tons of dye-wood.*

* The number of American vessels which cleared outwards from the Settlement of Honduras, from the first of January, 1806, to 31st of December, 1807, amounted to

Ships	4	} Tonnage 5966. Carry- ing about 140,000 feet of mahogany, and a proportionate quantity of dye-wood, &c. &c.
Brigs	25	
Schooners . .	19	
Sloops	1	
Total	49	

The embargo having taken place during the latter year, the intercourse consequently subsided, and any privilege to import provisions was no longer of effect. The return for this period is particularly given, from the connection being as extensive as at any former one of the same duration.

A very profitable commerce in cattle is carried on by a few individuals of the Settlement with the Spaniards, who are resident on what is called the Main. It is principally conducted by barter, the Spaniards exchanging their cattle for linen, cloths, sugars, rum, &c. &c. It is conjectured that a profit of five or six hundred per cent. is very commonly realized by this traffic. The cattle obtained in this way are either slaughtered, or purchased by the cutters of mahogany; to whom they are peculiarly valuable, for the purpose of draught. They are large, and well formed, and the meat they afford extremely well-flavoured. On the Spanish Main is likewise raised an uncommonly large and serviceable breed of mules: these are usually transported to Jamaica.

The frequent inconvenience which is felt in the West India Islands, for the want of regular supplies of provisions

from the mother country, equally affects the settlement of Honduras, if the size and population of it be considered. And without the remotest attempt to arraign that policy which is so peremptorily insisted on as the exclusive privilege of the parent state, it may nevertheless be determined, that, unless it had been for its occasional relaxation, the small dependency of which we speak, as well as the islands collectively, would, in numberless instances, have been reduced to a condition little short of famine. Indeed, it must be acknowledged, that this has been found on many occasions a very serious impediment, and which threatened to be productive of consequences of the most alarming kind; nor would the recurrence of such evil seem likely to be prevented by any continued interruption of an intercourse with the American states. This circumstance likewise inclines many persons,

exclusively established in the planting interest, to consider, that at no very distant period they may be driven to the unavoidable expedient of turning their thoughts from their present pursuits, to the exclusive one of cultivating articles of food for the sustenance of their families and slaves.

The foregoing is an extreme, however, to which the West India islands may be more exposed, from the limited resources annexed to them, than our more extensive, and with regard to the subject in question, more capable possessions on the continent.

Few countries, perhaps, ever possessed higher advantages, in an agricultural point of view, than the greater part of that which is placed contiguous to the Bay of Honduras. It is certainly but imperfectly known to us; but what has been ascertained respecting it discovers,

in a very striking degree, the vast obligation it owes to Nature, if it be not hitherto in any way particularly beholden to the industry or research of man. The extraordinary benefits that might result from the happiest combination of climate and soil, are almost disregarded; and the cultivation of the earth, which in almost every other spot of the habitable world, claims a first attention, is here held of no consideration at all. Pursuits, therefore, of the most important utility are forced to give place to those which are viewed as being infinitely more profitable. Nor is it probable that such resources will suggest themselves, until the opportunities afforded by the latter shall begin to fail. This must happen, and it will be only then that the real value of this country can possibly be discovered. The mahogany and log-wood cutters have long since complained of the limits

assigned them by treaty with Spain, within which both these commodities are becoming exceedingly scarce.

The productions common to the West India Islands, with a considerable variety of such as are more familiarly known to that part of the continent which is comprehended within the tropics, might unquestionably be cultivated at Honduras with equal, if not, in many instances, with superior success. The sugar-cane, viewed as the most valuable of all, thrives with the richest luxuriance. Coffee, another, and now become one of the most profitable articles of our island culture, grows equally well. Cotton must likewise be included. Indigo might also amply reward the labour of the cultivator: an inferior sort is indigenous. Indian arrow-root is abundantly produced, and pimenta has been tried under the most encouraging appearance of profit.

Previous to the removal of the Eng-

lish settlers from the Mosquito shore, several sugar plantations had been formed on Black River, and the sugar and rum which they furnished were very generally deemed, by competent judges, not inferior to the same articles the produce of Jamaica.

Contiguous to the banks of the many rivers with which this country is so abundantly supplied, the lands would without question be found, from the extraordinary richness of their soil, exceedingly well adapted to the growth of rice : and the periodical rains would certainly prove highly conducive to the perfection of this most useful grain. That which has been produced for domestic use in many situations on the River Balize in particular, for goodness of quality, and quantity to the acre, has been considered every way equal to the finest from the American States.

The above may be contemplated as the

most important kinds of culture that might be advantageously attempted. Of other kinds, however, though perhaps not of equal consideration in an extended view, yet that can scarcely be deemed less valuable from their contributing so immediately to the wants of man, may be enumerated—the growth of maize, or Indian corn, yams of various species, cassava-root, of which is made a very palatable bread.* But of all, perhaps, the best known substitute for this indispen-

* Until the cassava receives very particular preparation, it is known to possess the most dangerous poisonous qualities. Ulloa (*Voyage to South America*, Vol. i. p. 70,) observes, that it is used after carefully taking off the upper skin of the root. It is grated and steeped in water to free it from its acrid juices, the water being frequently shifted. In a quotation from Dr. Darwin, by Bryan Edwards, *Hist. West Indies*, Vol. i. p. 128, it is remarked, that cassava, when made into bread, is rendered mild by the heat it undergoes, rather than by expressing its superfluous juice.

sable necessary is the plantain, which flourishes under the united influence of a tropical climate and generous soil, scarcely requiring the labour of attention. Every Settlement at Honduras has its plantain-walk; and many of these comprehend an extent of at least an hundred acres: nor can any thing exceed the beauty and richness which the continued groves of these trees display, as the traveller pursues his course up the different rivers. The pine-apple, banana, and melon, being very commonly interspersed between the rows of plantains, contribute to heighten the luxuriance of the scene; and the mountain-cabbage, occasionally rearing its lofty head far above the whole, adds no inconsiderable share of grandeur to the general effect.

The domestic animals of Honduras are such as are generally known in most parts of Europe. The pasturage afforded them being extensive and good, cattle,

particularly oxen and cows, thrive uncommonly well ; and the latter supply a plentiful quantity of milk. Sheep also, and goats, are found to succeed, the last in a most prolific degree. Of the sheep it may be observed, as a singular circumstance, and as an additional proof of the mildness of this climate, contrasted with that of the West Indies, that it does not loose its fleece, as it invariably does in the different islands, and which is suddenly succeeded by a kind of goat-like hair ; a change that may be very fairly attributed to the extreme violence of the heat.

Of fisheries, the most profitable, and consequently the most pursued in this country, is that of the turtle. This forms an exclusive occupation, and the quantity usually taken is considerable. A few of the turtle find their way to the London market, being purchased for the purpose by the masters of vessels from the

above port ; but the principal consumption of this article of food is domestic, and is one that is very generally preferred by the settlers. The taking of the species called the hawks-bill is particularly desirable, from the value which is affixed to its shell : this in Europe usually obtains the name of *tortoise-shell*, and is manufactured into a variety of ornamental articles.

The persons engaged in turtling are generally inhabitants of the different keys in the neighbourhood of Balize. Many of them, however, have placed themselves close to the Spanish settlements ; but they seldom meet with interruption from this circumstance. At the seasons of their employment, they commonly form themselves into parties of four or five ; and, perhaps, with a small share of occasional industry, a more independent description of beings could scarcely be found. When the time for taking the turtle is past, they

are chiefly occupied in the catching of fish for themselves and families. The produce of their labour, which in successful seasons is often considerable, is invariably disposed of in the most licentious way, being solely appropriated to the gratification of one indulgence, an immoderate consumption of rum. During the period of their labour, they are, nevertheless, conspicuous for a religious adherence to sobriety, water only being permitted to be taken on the excursion. But this over, a penance so mortifying is at once atoned for in weeks of continued drunkenness. An entire puncheon of their favourite beverage having often been deemed by them no profuse allowance for the celebration of a single debauch.

From the uncommon variety of fishes with which the sea, contiguous to this coast, so plentifully abounds, it might be conjectured that the curing several sorts

of them would form an advantageous employment. Of the kinds which might more immediately answer this purpose, may be named, the baracouta, and jew-fish, both exceedingly well-flavoured and firm. The former is often caught of sixty pounds weight; the latter frequently upwards of two hundred. The manati is also taken on the coast and in the neighbouring lagoons, the flesh of which, either fresh or salted, is considered a great delicacy. The weight of this sometimes exceeds a thousand pounds.

The inferior kinds are so numerous, that a particular specification of them, with that of many other productions, connected with the natural history of this part of the world, will appear more conveniently reserved for another part of these sketches.

Whoever has become at all acquainted with tropical countries must have dwelt with peculiar delight on the grateful pro-

fusion of fruits with which they have been so kindly furnished by an indulgent Providence; the whole, or the greater part of them, being so happily adapted, from the exquisite properties they possess, to the convenience of man. Among the choicest of these, and which are abundantly obtained in the country of which we speak, may be enumerated: bananas, melons of several sorts, pineapple in equal variety, oranges of superior flavour, lemons, limes, shaddocks, mango, guava, mammee, cashew-apple, tamarind, prickly-pear, avocado-pear, pomegranate, wild-plums of many species, sea-grape, &c. It may also be worthy of remark, that the grape of Madeira has been recently introduced into Honduras, and gives every promise of becoming familiarized to its new situation.

CHAP. III.

Rivers Balize and Sibun, their importance to the Settlement: particulars connected with the history of both. Seasons for cutting mahogany: the operation described. Cutting of Logwood, do. Commercial advantages annexed to the above. Slaves, their labour and condition. Concluding remark.

IT has been already observed that cultivation forms no part of the leading pursuits of the British Settlers at Honduras. The cutting of mahogany and logwood must, therefore, be considered almost their sole occupation.

The River Balize, from which the principal establishment has obtained its name, and from having the oldest and most valuable mahogany works connected with it, claims the first consideration. Some of the wood-cutters have placed themselves as high up this river as two

hundred miles from its entrance ; from the sea to this distance, it is perfectly navigable for all the purposes required ; the continuance of it beyond this, though conjectured to be far, is not very accurately known.

At no very great distance from the more remote situations of the settlers in this direction, it has been ascertained, that roads of communication can be found which are supposed to extend from the northern possessions of the Spanish government to its southern ones. Cross ways are also spoken of, which lead to and unite with its interior dependencies. It is perfectly well understood, that the public dispatches which relate to the Spanish colonial departments are principally forwarded by land, particularly during war. They are entrusted to Indian couriers, who perform the longest journeys with extraordinary dispatch. Few English have had the opportunity

of knowing any thing accurately of these roads, or of the places to which they lead. It having been invariably the policy of Spain to guard as strictly as possible against the least information of the kind being obtained; those persons therefore who have travelled over them have in most instances been in a state of captivity, and not unfrequently compelled, on misrepresentation has produced the statement, to have their eyes closely bandaged. At the head of the river Balize a town of considerable size and population, named Potent, is said to be situated. It is placed in the centre of a large lake, and is considered a place of banishment for Spanish culprits. It has a governor and small garrison annexed to it, and in a south westerly direction is deemed about eight or ten days' journey from the highest of the English Settlements. The communication from Potent to the rich and exten-

sive city of Guatemala is believed to be uninterrupted.

The Sibun, or Sheeboon, as it is usually called, is the next river of importance in this country. The navigation of this is much bolder than that of the Balize, and vast quantities of mahogany are floated down it, and from the many branches and creeks with which it is united. The sides of this river, for a considerable distance, are thickly studded with plantations, and the soil connected with it is generally considered of rich and productive quality. During the rains, the floods in the Sibun are extremely great; for, in a few hours, it has been known to rise from its original level upwards of fifty feet; its decrease is usually as rapid; and little inconvenience, excepting the occasional loss of a few cattle, happens to the settlers from this circumstance. Its entrance from the sea is about three

leagues in a southwardly direction from the river Balize.

Several of the rivers comprehended within the English limits, plentifully abounding with both mahogany and logwood, were abandoned at the commencement of our recent hostility with Spain. The immediate vicinity of these rivers to the possessions of the latter, and the insecurity that might have attended the unprotected settler in his employment, no doubt suggested the expediency of this. Our establishments of this kind were more particularly confined to the Rio-Neuvo, and Rio-Honda, each of them a short distance from the settlement of Balize, and both navigable for vessels of considerable burden.

About thirty miles up the Balize, contiguous to its banks, are found, what in this country are denominated, the Indian-hills. These are small eminences,

which are supposed to have been raised by the aborigines over their dead; human bones, and fragments of a coarse kind of earthen-ware, being frequently dug from them. The Indian-hills are seldom discovered but in the immediate vicinity of rivers or creeks, a circumstance which has afforded another supposition, that they were formed by the natives as places of refuge during the prevalence of floods; an inconvenience, to which in such situations, and before the country was in any degree cleared of wood, they must frequently have been exposed. The foot of these hills is regularly planted round with large stones, and the whole may perhaps be thought to bear a very strong resemblance to the ancient barrows, or *tumuli*, so commonly found in various parts of England.

On a branch of the river Sibun, named Indian-creek, are situated the caves. These are subterraneous passages which

have been formed at the base of three or four mountains in the neighbourhood of each other of very considerable height, no doubt by the force of the current of water, which probably for many centuries has found its way through them. The largest of these passages is somewhat more than a quarter of a mile in length, though in this country it has a greater extent given to it.

It would certainly require no common powers of description to delineate with fidelity the exquisite beauties connected with the largest of the caves. The entrance to it from Indian-creek, after many windings, bursts suddenly on the sight, and resembles very closely the aperture of an oven, and is thickly overhung with rocks and trees of the grandest, but wildest workmanship. When this is passed, a wide and spacious lake instantly commences, the water of which is silent and deep, being scarcely heard to murmur,

but during the most tempestuous floods. The lofty roof is arched with the most exact proportion, and is profusely studded with glittering crystallizations. Torch-light affords the visitor the only means of advantageously viewing this sublime piece of scenery; for if, in one or two places, an occasional beam of the sun, bursting with inconceivable lustre through clefts of the mountain, be withdrawn, entire darkness pervades the whole; and the smallest sound made in passing, being quickly loudly reverberated, is forcibly calculated to strike the ear with a feeling of solemn grandeur.

The caves are thought by some to have been produced by the labour of the Indians: hence the name of the water which finds its course through them; but this conjecture stands divested of every probability to support it. When the waters are at the lowest, the solitary recesses of the caves are the chosen haunts

of many animals of prey, of which the tiger may be most frequently traced.

There are two seasons in the year for the cutting of mahogany: the first commencing shortly after Christmas, or at the conclusion of what is termed the *wet season*, the other about the middle of the year. At such periods all is activity; and the falling of trees, or the trucking out those that have been fallen, form the chief employments. Some of the wood is rough-squared on the spot, but this part of the labour is generally suspended until the logs are rafted to the entrance of the different rivers. These rafts often consist of more than two hundred logs, and are floated as many miles. When the floods are unusually rapid, it very frequently happens, that the labour of a season, or perhaps of many, is at once destroyed by the breaking asunder of a raft, and the whole of the mahogany being hurried precipitately to the sea.

The gangs of negroes employed in this work consist of from ten to fifty each ; few exceed the latter number. The large bodies are commonly divided into several small ones, a plan which, it is supposed, greatly facilitates labour.

Each gang of slaves has one belonging to it, who is styled the *hunter*. He is generally selected from the most intelligent of his fellows, and his chief occupation is to search the woods, or, as in this country it is termed, the *bush*, to find labour for the whole. A negro of this description is often valued at more than five hundred pounds.

About the beginning of August the *hunter* is dispatched on his errand ; and if his owner be working on his own ground, this is seldom an employment of much delay or difficulty. He cuts his way through the thickest of the woods to the highest spots, and climbs the tallest tree he finds, from which he minutely

surveys the surrounding country. At this season the leaves of the mahogany tree are invariably of a yellow reddish hue, and an eye accustomed to this kind of exercise can discover, at a great distance, the places where the wood is most abundant. He now descends, and to such places his steps are directed; and without compass, or other guide than what observation has imprinted on his recollection, he never fails to reach the exact point to which he aims.

It not unfrequently happens, when the huntsman has been particularly successful in this journey of discovery, in finding a large body of wood in some remote corner, that it becomes a contest with his conscience, whether he shall disclose the matter to his master, or sell it to his master's neighbour: a liberal equivalent for this breach of fidelity being always punctually discharged. Those, however, who afford encouragement to such prac-

tices, by such impolitic temptation, are perhaps not more mindful of the old adage than of their interest, as it cannot but indirectly sanction their own slaves to take equal advantage whenever the opportunity presents itself.

On some occasions no ordinary stratagem is necessary to be resorted to by the huntsman to prevent others from availing themselves of the advantage of his discoveries ; for if his steps be traced by those who may be engaged in the same pursuit, which is a very common thing, all his ingenuity must be exerted to beguile them from the true scent. In this, however, he is not always successful, being followed by those who are entirely aware of all the arts he may use, and whose eyes are so quick, that the lightest turn of a leaf, or the faintest impression of his foot, is unerringly perceived : even the dried leaves which may be strewed

on the ground often help to conduct to the secret spot. Patents for discovery having never been contemplated by the Honduras wood-cutters, any invasion of the right appertaining to it has therefore seldom been very scrupulously regarded by them. And it consequently happens, that persons so engaged must frequently undergo the disappointment of finding an advantage they had promised to themselves seized on by others.

The mahogany tree is commonly cut about twelve feet from the ground, and a stage is erected for the axe-man employed in levelling it. This, to an observer, would appear a labour of much danger, but an accident rarely happens to the person engaged in it. The body of the tree, from the dimensions of the wood it furnishes, is deemed the most valuable; but for purposes of ornamental kind, the branches or limbs are generally

preferred, the grain of these being much closer, and the veins more rich and variegated.

The last day of falling the trees, if the negroes have not been disturbed in their labour, is always one of festivity and merriment; and these people may now anticipate a short interval of leisure that will allow them to think of comforts in which they seldom can indulge at the commencement of their work. Some are busily employed in the improvement of their dwellings, which are nothing more than huts composed of a few sticks and leaves, that of the master being seldom better, whilst others search the woods for game, in which they generally are abundantly successful. The more ingenious turn their attention to the manufacture of a variety of small articles from the less valuable mahogany, for domestic use; and which, either as presents to their wives, or as matters for sale, are

disposed of on their return from the woods.

The mahogany tree is seldom found in clusters or groups, but single and often much dispersed; what, therefore, is denominated a mahogany work comprehends an extent of several miles. The growth of this tree is considered rapid, but that of the logwood much more so, which, it is said, attains maturity in five years.

It has been remarked, by those of most experience in this occupation, that the mahogany which is fallen between the months of February and September is very liable to split; the same observation extends to that also which grows in rocky or mountainous situations. This is the *bay-man's* greatest evil, for the wood more particularly subject to this inconvenience is invariably the largest and of the finest quality. There is but one precaution against this, whenever the

tendency towards it is discovered, which is to keep the tree immersed as closely as possible in deep water until the time for shipping or otherwise disposing of it arrives.

The logs of mahogany are generally brought out by cattle and trucks to the water side, or to the *barquadier*, as it is termed in this country, which has been previously prepared by the foreman of the work for their reception. When the distance is great, this is a labour of infinite and tedious difficulty. As soon as a sufficient number to form a raft is collected, and the waters have gained the necessary height, they are singly thrown from the banks, and require no other aid or guidance than the force of the current to float them to the booms which are large cables placed across the rivers at the different eddies or falls. Here they are once more collected, each party claiming his own from the general

mass, and formed into separate rafts for their final destination. Sometimes more than a thousand logs together are supported by the booms; and the catastrophe attendant on their breaking asunder, which during extraordinary floods often happens, has been previously noticed.

The mahogany, when disposed of at Honduras, produces from sixteen to thirty pounds, Jamaica currency, per thousand feet: the price of this article however can seldom be fixed, and must always fluctuate as it may be governed by quality or size. The shipping of it to Europe, especially during war, has seldom been found advantageous, excepting to a few individuals, who have succeeded in establishing a kind of preference in the London market. The exporting of it to the American States would, it is considered, be highly beneficial to the settlers generally, were there

less restriction in the way of the dimensions of that which is permitted to be carried to them : this renders the intercourse, as it exists at present, of insignificant importance.

To give some idea of the profit, though perhaps the instances of such success are not numerous which has been known to attend the cutting of mahogany : a single tree has been found to contain 12000 superficial feet, and this to produce upwards of one thousand pounds sterling. This certainly is a most flattering view of the subject; but, unquestionably, many more examples of opposite advantage might be produced. The great expense the settler must incur in the purchase, feeding, and clothing a number of slaves; the tools, cattle, and furniture, he must supply for the purpose of draught, exclusive of a variety of miscellaneous disbursements, are all material drawbacks

from any thing like such extraordinary gain commonly happening in this undertaking.

The annual cost of the negro alone is estimated by each proprietor at Hon-
duras, at something more than 35 pounds
Jamaica currency: an expense which,
in the history of slavery, is probably
without parallel. As a fact so unusual
may require more than naked assertion
to support it, it may not be unnecessary
to particularise what is commonly grant-
ed on such occasions, and which custom
has long since brought into regular exac-
tion. First, therefore, of provisions:

Of Irish salt pork, to each ne-	£.	s.	d.
gro, 5lb. per week, which,			
on an average of price, may			
be estimated for 365 days at	8	10	0
	<hr/>		
Carried forward	£8	10	0

OF HONDURAS.

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	8	10	0
Of flour, always the finest, 1lb. per day each, estimated at	10	0	0
Of rum, supposing a gill to be allowed to each slave per day, during the days that work is carrying on, which may be numbered at 260: the spirits at 10s. per gallon	4	1	3
Of sugar, 12lb. allowed to each, at 1s. 3d. per lb. ..	0	15	0
Of clothing: two suits of fa- tigue, or working clothes, usually of osnaburghs, at about 1s. 8d. per yard to each, and making	1	3	4
One pair of coarse shoes ditto ditto	0	13	4
Miscellaneous: tobacco and pipes to each negro	1	10	0
Carried forward	26	12	11

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	26	12	11
Medical attendance, or medicine, per contract, to each	0	13	4
Saturday's labour, invariably the privilege of the slave, and which is generally engaged by his owner : established rate 3s. 4d. per day	8	13	4
	<hr/>		
Jamaica currency	£	35	19 7
	<hr/>		
Equal in sterling for each			
slave, per annum	£	25	13 11½
	<hr/>		

If the slave be not employed in regular mahogany cutting, he is at least engaged in some occupation by his master, which gives him a claim to this compensation. This allowance, however, though it be paid at the nominal rate of 3s. 4d. per day, seldom actually amounts to any thing like so much; it

being in most instances accounted for in slops, trinkets, or liquors, of the most inferior kind ; and which no doubt are given out in this way at a profit of more than 200-per cent. Besides the principal number of the persons engaged in the cutting of mahogany being also in trade, of course the above is provided for in the way of business. To those who may not be so situated, of whom there are likewise several, and who must depend on the merchant for such supplies, this expense consequently bears a very different proportion.

The cutting of logwood is not so important or extensive an undertaking as that of mahogany. It does not require, in the first instance, any thing like the same number of slaves and cattle ; nor, in the second, so great an expence in various articles of machinery, tools, provisions, &c. &c. The persons who embark in it are usually beginners in life,

and frequently possess little other capital to carry it on but their industry. Though an inferior, it may in some shape be viewed as a necessary occupation to the other, as large quantities of logwood are continually required by the shippers of mahogany for the purpose of securely stowing their vessels; and who find an advantage in purchasing it rather than in detaching their own labourers in search of it.

It does not often occur that logwood and mahogany are found growing in the neighbourhood of each other; the situations which they inhabit being extremely different. The former may, perhaps, be almost classed among productions of an aquatic kind, as it can seldom be obtained in any abundant way but in a low swampy soil, or contiguous to fresh water creeks and lakes, on the edges of which the root, the only valuable part of the tree, spreads to a very wide extent.

After this remark, it need scarcely be added, that this pursuit is found of a most unpleasant and unhealthy description. It may likewise be observed, that it is a production of local growth, and but rarely discovered in any direction southwardly from the settlement of Balize.

The price of logwood at Honduras is still more fluctuating than that of mahogany, the demand for it being much more unequal. This commonly vibrates between £7 and £14 Jamaica currency per ton. The most advantageous market for it has usually been found in the United States, to which it is frequently permitted to be carried without restriction. As an article of export to Britain, it has not generally been deemed profitable.

The chief property of the settlers of Honduras, from what has been advanced, must be supposed to consist in slaves. These people have mostly been imported from Africa by the intercourse with

Jamaica, no direct importation having ever taken place ; but many of them are creoles of the different West Indian Islands, and several have been brought into the Settlement, by their owners, from the United States. And in no part of the world where slavery prevails, can the condition of being so circumstanced be found of milder or more indulgent form. The labour they undergo bears no proportion to that which they sustain throughout the islands : nor is it more to be compared with what they experience in the States of America, a country which at least *professes* to confer a higher portion of freedom than most others, whether it *really* happen or not.

Whenever power is exercised with moderation, the task of recording it can never be thought superfluous. And where the charge of inhumanity is general, any opportunity that may be afforded for discrimination, it would be a

violation of justice to withhold. Thus much, therefore, seemed due to the slaveholder in the present instance, and with the acknowledgment of it the subject is closed ; for it is as distant from being intended, as it would be remote from the purpose in view, to proceed further on one in all its forms so uninviting ; on which ability so much superior has been exhausted without producing conviction ; and which, like many others of popular description, has, perhaps, on some occasions, fixed the reason in an obsequious dependance on the passions.

The value of the negro, if recently from Africa, is computed from £120 to £160 Jamaica currency. Those who have passed a few years in the country, and have become accustomed to the labour of it, frequently produce from £200 to £300.

A convoy is appointed from Jamaica for the protection of the Honduras trade

to Europe twice a year, in January and July.

It may be here observed, that if the English were removed from the privileges they enjoy at Honduras, scarcely any other people could derive equal advantage from them. Even the Spaniards themselves, in the very limited state of whatever at present relates to them in a commercial view, could be little, if in any way, benefited by the circumstance. Indeed it will possibly be not too much to assert, that the people of the Spanish colonies generally would very cheerfully wave all pretensions of the kind, for the advantage of obtaining an extension of mercantile intercourse, by which the manufactures of Britain might more readily reach them, and for which they at all times discover the most eager predilection.

CHAP. IV.

A code of laws formed by Capt. Burnaby. Present administration of justice. Courts of Honduras, how held. Humane regulation for protecting manumitted slaves. Revenue. Population. Diseases.

A CODE of laws or regulations was formed for the English settlers at Honduras by Capt. (afterwards Sir William) Burnaby, in the year 1779. These yet retain the name of their founder, and Burnaby's laws have always been considered the fundamental or statute law of the settlement. An examination of this code will discover, that it comprehends little more than what is adapted to society in its most contracted state; and which never could have been intended to embrace any thing connected with a more extensive population and growing increase of property. When these regu-

lations were therefore enforced, it must be believed, it was merely intended that some direction or restraint should be imposed on a description of persons, who had before lived without respect to rules of any kind; and whose irregularities, murders, piracies, and atrocities of every sort, were continually perpetrated with a barbarous indifference, because punishment was unknown. Such unquestionably was the state of society in this remote quarter; and one that, no doubt, powerfully actuated the British commander to adopt such measures as he very properly considered might be productive of results more consonant to justice and humanity.

The present administration of justice is vested in a bench of magistrates, consisting of seven. These officers are elective, annually: a mode of appointment, which, in this respect at least, must have many obvious defects, and which, when

exercised in small communities, will not always be found the most certain way of securing the impartial ends that ought ever to be borne in view when annexed to a matter of such solemn importance. And it may very fairly be presumed, that a proper interpretation of laws would be more likely to occur, from the nomination of persons in some previous shape qualified to fill such situations, than could possibly happen from the accidental, or, as it is more frequently found, capricious privilege of electing to them.

If it be the will of government to retain this establishment, those more immediately connected with it must feel an increased desire, that an early attention of the legislative power should be drawn towards this momentous point; for, as it has been remarked, the increase of property, the more fixed state of society, and, above all, the commercial consequence it has attained, and of which

under proper regulation it may yet seem susceptible in a far higher degree, would certainly appear to require something of a more defined and systematic form than what at present is acknowledged in it.

The office of superintendant of the settlement of Honduras has always been filled by a person of military rank, combining the duties of the first civil magistrate with that of commandant of the troops, &c. Such, no doubt, would seem the proper interpretation of the situation of this officer. This, however, has not been so readily admitted; and a very opposite and limited definition of it has usually been contended for, chiefly by those who might have felt a diminution of their importance by a more strict exercise of the powers annexed to it. The reluctance which has invariably accompanied every acknowledgement of the kind has been productive of incessant dissension and contest; and from

the little moderation that has characterized these differences, a belief might almost be entertained, that no inconsiderable portion of the rude spirit of the first adventurers in this quarter had been transmitted unimpaired to their successors.

The courts of Honduras are held three times in each year : other courts are also occasionally held to determine matters of inferior kind, and to adjust the differences of transient persons. From the adjudications of these courts it is contended there can be no appeal : a conclusive power, that may not appear altogether satisfactory, especially to those who may have become in any degree acquainted with the more enlarged system of jurisprudence adopted in other countries.

A law has been recently enforced, which entitles the settlers to much commendation, though the feeling idea which sug-

gested the necessity of so humane a measure may have originated in another quarter.* It is a law prohibiting the manumission of slaves, unless the owner previously enters into a specific engagement with an equivalent security, that the persons so manumitted shall not, in sickness or old age, become burdensome to themselves or to the public. A similar regulation also extends to such freedom as may be granted by testamentary bequest.

Previous to the introduction of the above, it will not be denied, that the condition of the slave was often found truly deplorable. Broken down by age or infirmity, the boon, thus obtained, was more frequently extended, because perhaps he had ceased, from one or both of the foregoing causes, to be longer capable of toiling, than from any impulse of a more generous nature.

* It is believed, in the island of Jamaica.

A temple of *Æsculapius* might occasionally have been quite as convenient in our colonies as it was found on the island in the Tiber, to which the Romans consigned their sick slaves, and from which, if the god was indulgent in restoring them to health, they once more were taken into the employ of their masters: if they died, no farther inquiry was made about them:

Mors ultima linea rerum est.

The domestic revenue of the settlement is principally drawn from a duty or tax on transient traders, who pay five pounds per cent. on all articles of merchandise. This duty is productive, but much more so whilst an intercourse with the United States remains uninterrupted.

From all wines and spirits imported, one shilling and sixpence per gallon is levied: this contributes very considerably to the Honduras treasury.

From annually licensing retail liquor-

shops, of which the number in Balize, if its size be considered, is prodigious: these shops are rated as high as thirty pounds each.

From fines levied by the courts on civil and criminal actions.

From non-performance of the duty of magistrate, when elected, one hundred pounds. Non-attendance of jurors, &c.

From public retailers of goods, ten pounds per annum each.

From tonnage of vessels, seven-pence halfpenny per ton; and a harbour duty on ships of three pounds.

The total of this revenue may be taken, *communibus annis*, at between six and seven thousand pounds Jamaica currency. It is disposed of at the will and under the direction of the magistracy for the time being.

From the foregoing outline of the laws and regulations adopted in this establishment, an opinion will scarcely be

entertained, but that the interests of most of the persons connected with it would be materially improved, as well as a spirit of enterprise more extensively encouraged with others, if an entire amendment of the whole, both in form and administration, were to take place: for in a system so undefined, if the term can be applied to any thing so desultory, the want of confidence and security must ever be felt.

Under the encouragement of a belief, therefore, that the period may not be remote when this may become an object of increased consideration, a form of government somewhat resembling that which has been prescribed for some of the smaller islands, the Bahamas in particular, might be found equally adapted to the situation of Honduras. And a distribution of its internal revenue, as stated, might appear fully adequate to meet every requisite purpose. With

such an opinion and with that diffidence which should accompany such suggestions, the following is submitted :

Superintendant, per annum.	£ 1000
Attorney-General.	600
Two Justices, or Judges, £600 each	1200
Comptroller of customs	500
Deputy ditto, and Collector	300
Provost-Marshal and Harbour-	
Master	300
Allowance to Superintendant for	
Secretary	200
	<hr/>
	Sterling 4100
	<hr/>
Revenue of Honduras about	5000
	<hr/>
Balance after the foregoing distri-	
bution	900
	<hr/>

At present it must be understood, that the superintendant receives from government £500 per annum, with an

allowance of £100 for a secretary; an allowance also for miscellaneous disbursements. It will be seen from the above, that an improvement of this situation is produced, as well as in that of secretary, and with an advantage, although a trifling one in state economics, of the entire amount of both. But it must be obvious, that the object of an insignificant saving is not exclusively contemplated in this instance.

It is computed that there is not more than 200 white inhabitants in the settlement of Honduras, and somewhat more than 500 people of colour and free blacks. The number of negro slaves is supposed to be near 3000. No *census* of the entire population has been recently taken. It may be observed, however, that the increase of the white population bears no kind of proportion with its decrease.

The diseases more particularly incidental to this part of the world are fevers,

chiefly of the intermittent kind. During the hottest months those of a bilious and inflammatory nature are likewise prevalent, and frequently prove fatal to persons newly arrived. Complaints of a pulmonic description are seldom the attendants of hot climates, and are therefore but little known in this.

The influenza, so common and frequently so fatal in Europe, proved peculiarly destructive here during the months of December 1807, and January 1808. It may be remarked, as a singular circumstance connected with this complaint, that it proved invariably more fatal to blacks than to whites.

There is an evil with which the negroes employed in the woods are very commonly afflicted, and from which the whites are not entirely exempt; this is called the *bay-sore*. This disorder is believed to be peculiar to Honduras. It usually breaks out in the hands or

legs, and is attended in almost every instance with very acute pain. Medical opinion has determined it to be of cancerous description, and the cure is only effected by powerful caustics, or applications of a corrosive nature.

The tetanus, or locked-jaw, the frequent and dreadful attendant on almost every kind of wound throughout the West Indies and the greater part of the American continent, is not known here.

While on the subject of disease it may be useful to remark, that although this inconvenience is found less formidable at Honduras than in many situations under nearly corresponding degrees of latitude, yet it is by no means to be viewed as being entirely excluded from such intrusion. It consequently becomes a matter of the highest importance to those who may be conducted to its shores, to follow, as far as they conveniently can, such rules as may seem

most rationally founded for the preservation of health ; and that such may be followed without any material diminution of social enjoyment, or violent exercise of self denial, will hardly require to be insisted on.

It is well understood that there are certain seasons, of which it has usually been recommended to Europeans to take advantage, on making a voyage to countries situated within the tropics. These seasons, as applied to the whole, though subject from local causes to frequent variation, must generally be considered to be comprehended within the time of the year when the violence of the heat is somewhat mitigated, and during the absence of the periodical rains. A sudden exposure to either extreme often proves fatal to the stranger, and should if possible be cautiously avoided. The night dews which at most seasons are very prolific are not less baneful ; and

until the sun has gained some ascendancy to disperse the unwholesome vapours these create, the morning in many situations has little healthful or agreeable to recommend it. Under the head of precaution, therefore, a proper adaptation of clothing to meet the vicissitudes alluded to should, it is presumed, engage a due share of regard. This is a matter, however, that observation may have discovered to be less considered by the people of our own country than by those of any other. An Englishman in this respect is most pertinacious, and would perhaps rather surrender some portion of his health and convenience than any part of his accustomed habit. Not so the Frenchman, the Spaniard, or even the inflexible Dutchman, who, within the tropics, finds occasion for fewer pairs of breeches than he had in the Texel.

The doctrine of temperance has sel-

from obtained admission in the warmer regions; nor have the advocates for it in such situations often been regarded with extraordinary deference. Yet it is quite probable, that few could be found, even in the indulgence of an opposite system, who would not afford assent to a theory although at some variance with their practice. With regard to living, therefore, little can be said; indeed it would be useless to say much on a subject in which inclination has generally been discovered so much too powerful for suggestion. And as it becomes in some shape unavoidable, to use a familiar phrase, to live well, the meaning of which might possibly be found in its opposite, even in this respect some direction may be salutary.—To avoid all repasts but such as are denominated regular, for the appetite participating in the share of languor brought on the system by the effect of climate, may be

too much disposed, if not early restrained, to seek its gratification at unequal intervals, a matter in which health is more concerned than at first may be conceived, and that at once leads to the consideration of another thing which is closely attendant on it.—To prefer at all times the use of wine to that of spirits, and if the latter must be taken, on no account to omit a scrupulous adherence to three things—namely, time, quantity, and quality. Of the first it may certainly be pronounced, that any inattention towards it commonly involves an indifference with regard to the rest; and indiscriminate or early drinking has, without question, contributed quite as powerfully as the climate, or any other cause, to render the greater part of our colonies uncongenial to the existence of Europeans.

Before quitting this subject, it may not be wholly irrelevant to offer a few

further remarks, from which it is conjectured some advantage may likewise be derived.—First, to fortify the mind as strongly as possible against impressions of the interruption health may sustain in the change that has been undertaken. And, although regarding the recital of many of the feats of Death as tales for the nursery, not to indulge a belief by a too emboldened conduct, that no such personage stalks the earth. Secondly, no circumstance being more evident, than that the body is greatly dependant on the mind for the share of health it enjoys——

Mens sana in corpore sano—

to consider, if this maxim holds generally, that it will be found to apply with increased force in remote and unhealthy countries; where much is new, and, to many, where all is unpromising; where habits and association become entirely

dissimilar, and which are seldom found, with all the novelty they possess, sufficiently powerful to obliterate the anxiety and regret that is felt for that which has been resigned. This is the Promethean vulture, that must not fasten on its victim if the force of philosophy can prevent it.

It is possibly, from the indulgence of feelings like the above—from a sensibility which broods gloomily on the past—that much arises to embitter the present; and that, in its despondent effects, will seldom allow any thing to be placed on the future. This is the last and most dangerous state of this mental affection, which not unfrequently fixes the sufferer in a confirmed state of hypochondria, a *tedium vitæ*, that no relief, but sudden change of situation and restoration to former scenes, can ever reach.

The force contributed by government for the defence of the settlement of Hon-

duras, both maritime and military, is highly respectable. The settlers from amongst themselves have formed a body of militia, composed chiefly of persons of colour and free blacks; confidential slaves may likewise be included. A considerable share of reliance is placed on the militia; and which, from the zeal and collective energy it evinced, when the Spaniards attempted an invasion in the year 1798, seems very justly to belong to it. And in any instance of future attack, it is entirely evident that the most essential service might be expected to result from a co-operation of this body with the regular force. Still, however, it must be declared, that the present organization of the militia is in no shape as perfect as it is capable, under proper direction, of being made.

It never has been believed that the settlement can be attacked but by sea. On the land side it is an entire swamp or

morass for many miles back, at most seasons nearly covered with water, through which it would be impossible to move guns of the lightest weight, and indeed through which a man would find infinite difficulty to move himself. If an attempt should be made by the river Balize, an event that at certain periods has been expected, innumerable small vessels would be required for the purpose; and after these were obtained, the passage of them could only be effected during the rains, a season most disadvantageous for every kind of hostile operation in tropical countries. At every other time the navigation of this river would be effectually impeded.

The channel is protected by the guns of a strong fort lately erected by a competent engineer; and, in honour of his Majesty, this work is named Fort George. Its situation is singularly commanding, and, in any attempt of a land-

ing, would be capable of throwing a most destructive fire. An enemy not choosing to face this fort, but inclining to either flank of the town of Balize, the only possible points of gaining the shore, would have to encounter the passage of shoals of mud and sand which extend a considerable way into the sea, and on each side would be received by the guns of several batteries most judiciously placed, and which must inevitably expose him to the most annoying of all opposition, a cross-fire, independent of what, in addition to this, he might expect to be treated with from the shore, a well-directed discharge from light field-pieces and musquetry.

The whole of the slaves of Honduras are permitted to use arms, and possibly a more expert body of marksmen could not be found. To many this would appear an impolitic and questionable kind of indulgence; but let it be borne in

view, that the expectation of fidelity and attachment may be best founded on the consistent exercise of humanity and forbearance, and much of every inconvenient result will be at once diminished.

CHAP. V.

The pursuits of the Settlers of Honduras lead to distant, and widely different directions. Christmas the season of general festivity. The slaves particularly happy at this period. Water-sports. The Dory and Pit-pan boats, peculiar to the Settlement, described. Shooting and fishing parties.

ONE of the most frequent, and certainly not least founded, complaints, that has been advanced against establishments in remote countries, is the entire want of neighbourhood and society connected with them; an inconvenience that can scarcely be compensated for by the possession of every other advantage, and one that has often shaken the resolution of the hardest adventurer. Thus it happens in the country of which we speak: for labour, and that with a small share of

occasional relaxation, almost exclusively occupies the attention of whites and blacks; and, engaged in pursuits that lead to distant and in widely different directions, it seldom happens, perhaps not more than once in many months, that the inhabitants of it have any kind of intercourse with each other, or for the same interval with their homes or families. The setting out on a mahogany-cutting expedition resembles in some degree that of departing on a long voyage, the preparations for both being nearly similar; and the dreary time that must be passed in the woods in this employment, may not unaptly be compared to what is felt by many in a long confinement on shipboard.

Christmas, however, is the season that in this country usually brings all ranks together—the bond and the free; and the hilarity which prevails amongst the former order cannot possibly be more largely partaken of by any beings in the

world. The young, the old, even the maimed and the decrepit, all unite in contributing to render this period joyous and happy ; it may be added, and noisy !

The morning of Christmas-day is invariably ushered in by the discharging of small-arms in every direction, every thing now from established custom being free and unrestrained ; and the master's house (where the festivity commences), and whatever it contains, is now open to all. The members of the several African tribes, again met together after a long separation, now form themselves into different groups, and nothing can more forcibly denote their respective casts of national character than their music, songs, and dances. The convulsed rapid movements of some, and the affectedly reluctant steps of others, appear inconceivably ludicrous ; whilst the occasional bursts of loud chorus, with which

all are animated, contribute greatly to heighten the singularity of the entertainment.

The endurance of the negroes during the period of their holidays, which usually last a week, is incredible. Few of them are known to take any portion of rest for the whole time ; and for the same space they seldom know an interval of sobriety. It is the single season of relaxation granted to their condition ; that it should be partaken of immoderately may therefore appear not altogether so extraordinary.

At this season water-sports are also common, and *Dory-racing* affords a very general amusement ; and on these occasions large sums are freely betted both by owners and slaves. This species of diversion has no small share of utility attached to it, as it contributes to render the latter highly expert in a kind of exercise that is inseparably connected with the labour in which they are principally engaged.

The *Dory* is usually formed of mahogany or cedar, generally from a solid piece ; its length is from 25 to 50 feet ; and so buoyant and safe is this sort of vessel found, that persons accustomed to the management of it often fearlessly venture out to sea in it, and in weather when it might be unsafe to trust to vessels of much larger kind. It is worked with paddles instead of oars, and the fastest and best manned rowing boats have universally failed in a competition with it and the negro paddlers of Honduras.

The *Pit-pan* is another water vehicle much used in this country, and for celebrity is preferred to the former ; but this can only be employed in smooth water. It is formed of the same materials, the shape alone constituting the difference—the *Pit-pan* being flat-bottomed, the *Dory* round. Much taste is displayed by all orders in fitting out both these con-

veyances; and as they afford the only opportunities of travelling in this country, every expedient is resorted to, to render them pleasant and commodious. They are commonly furnished with capacious awnings, hung round with curtains to defend the passenger from the sun by day and the dews of night; precautions that are extremely necessary; for in journeying to the distant mahogany works, an abode for some time must frequently be taken up in them, and when any exposure in an unhealthy climate might be attended with evil consequences.

It is probable that little alteration has taken place in the form and construction of these vessels since the time that Bartholomew Columbus (on the authority of Herrera; and as related by B. Edwards, *Hist. West Indies*, vol. i. 8vo. p. 103) met one of them in passing through the gulf of Honduras. It was eight feet

in breadth, and in length equal to a Spanish galley. Over the middle was an awning, composed of mats and palm-tree leaves; underneath which were disposed the women and children, secured both from rain and the spray of the sea: it was laden with commodities from Jucatan.

Numerous parties of the settlers also now avail themselves of this period of leisure, to make excursions to the woods, or out amongst the sea islands or keys, to enjoy the amusements of fowling and fishing. On these occasions an ample stock of wines, liquors, &c. is laid in; and the gun and net seldom fail to procure an abundant supply of whatever else is requisite. Wherever the most sport promises to be found, a temporary encampment is speedily formed; and the hours not occupied in the pursuit of game are always passed with great hilarity.

In a sphere so contracted, so removed

from the world and its affairs, or—as the phraseology of fashion would determine—so out of it altogether, it will not be expected, that what forms a considerable, and to many the most desirable portion of the labour of a modern narrator—a display of attractive incidents—peculiar traits of character, manners, &c. &c. could be found. It is but from the wider circles of human action that such materials can be drawn; and in the present instance it is felt, that, with the utmost assistance of fancy, no ordinary auxiliary in such efforts, the deficiency could be but imperfectly supplied.

CHAP. VI.

Subjects connected with the Natural History of Honduras. Extraordinary advantages that might attend many pursuits annexed to cultivation again insisted on. Trees and plants, their great variety: the uses of several species described,

AN early attention has been directed towards the probable degree of success that might attend the culture of most of the vegetable productions peculiar to tropical situations in the settlement of Honduras. An outline or general description of those which at present are most familiarly known in it having likewise been given, a farther enumeration of them cannot be necessary. But previous to concluding this part of the subject, it may be remarked, that this prospect of advantage is very materially encou-

raged by the acknowledged superiority of the climate and soil of this part of the continent, and from the circumstance of its being happily removed from the discouraging inconvenience of the frequent and continued droughts so fatal to every agricultural attempt in many other parts of it, and from which the greater number of the West India islands are seldom exempt.

It will, therefore, only remain for human industry, if no intervention shall offer to the exercise of it, to improve the benefits thus conferred by the indulgence of nature ; for beside her almost spontaneous gifts, little has hitherto been sought in this quarter of the world.

Leaving this branch of the natural history of the country, we now proceed to another, which it is presumed may be less known, though certainly, from the many valuable advantages annexed to it,

that can scarcely be deemed less important.

Independent of the mahogany and logwood trees, the value of which has been previously pointed out, there is a great variety of other kinds, the growth of Honduras, fitted in as many ways for the most useful purposes, but more particularly for those of a maritime nature. Of this class may be named, as being entitled to particular distinction, the three species of the Mangrove, red, white, and black: that of the former colour is greatly preferred for the firmness of its texture and its extraordinary durability: the bark it furnishes has been thought little inferior to that of the oak, when applied to the purpose of tanning leather. This species of the Mangrove usually grows on the borders of the sea, or on the edges of the rivers and creeks contiguous to it: the second and last kinds are found more inland.

The Santa Maria, Sapodilla, and Seagrape trees, are all found extremely useful ; the last particularly so, from the naturally formed knees and timbers it supplies for small vessels. Cedar is also found plentiful and large, and is usually applied to similar purposes.

The Palmetto, of two kinds, the royal and the humble,* is abundant on the different islands or keys. The first is a tree of considerable size, and found remarkably serviceable in the construction of wharves, or when put to any use where a continued resistance to water may be needed. The last is useful in building, and furnishes a durable thatch from its leaves.

Parallel with the different rivers, in almost every direction, are found extensive Pine ridges, tracts of land abounding with Pine trees. The timbers which these

* So distinguished by Browne, Nat. Hist. Jamaica, Vol. 190, 330.

furnish can scarcely be exceeded in size, and are very generally considered, for every necessary purpose, greatly superior to what can be imported of the same kind from the United States. But the cause which has been before assigned, the high value of labour in this country, has occasioned the settlers, in most instances, rather to prefer purchasing such materials from the Americans than have recourse to those before them of domestic growth. Of the pine the kinds are various.

For a variety of purposes, the Bullet tree, Iron-wood tree, Calabash tree, and Button-wood tree, all are much admired. On the sides of most of the rivers the Willow is common; so likewise is a species of the Bamboo.

The Mohoe, or *Althæa*, is also found at some distance up the several rivers. The body of this tree is usually converted into rafts to float the logwood down to the sea. The bark of it is woven into

ropes, which are found to be little inferior to those made from hemp for strength and durability.

The tree which exudes the resinous substance called Caoutchouc, or elastic gum, from which the well known material of Indian rubber is made, is abundantly found in most places. The name which this tree bears in Honduras could not be learned; *Siphonia elastica* is that by which it is familiar to naturalists. The Locust tree, which affords another valuable gum, is likewise common.

It would be impossible to contend for the accuracy of the nomenclature, which, when treating of the natural productions of remote countries, can only in many instances be resorted to. And as an infinite variety of subjects, connected both with the vegetable and animal kingdoms, may have escaped enumeration in the catalogues of the scientific, such names, therefore, must be continued to

them, as may have been suggested by their respective uses, or which local circumstances may have pointed out.

Of the trees which furnish dye woods, the most plentiful and easily obtained are those of the Logwood and Fustic. Some other kinds adapted to the like uses are occasionally found, but not in such quantities as to render the discovery of them of much importance. A species of that which bears the name of Brasileto is sometimes met with on the islands contiguous to the coast, and forms an article of export. The *Pterocarpus Draco*, which yields the valuable commodity of Dragon's blood, is a native of the interior country.

Of a class different from the foregoing, the first place may very properly be assigned to the Cocoa-nut tree, from the well known variety of uses to which it may be applied. This is the common inhabitant of almost every situation.

within the tropics ; and in this country, both on the continent and different islands, is most abundant.

The Cabbage-tree, the *Areca oloracea* of Linnæus, and *Palma* of Browne, the beauty of which has been before slightly noticed, is justly entitled to more particular remark. It may be considered, as the latter has denominated it, the queen of the woods. In height it frequently rises to upwards of a hundred feet, entirely erect, and tapering with exquisite proportion to its summit. The trunk is without branches or leaves until within a few feet of the top ; and the cabbage, or substance from which it has derived its familiar appellation, is also found near the top, enclosed within a thin, green, spongy bark. In trees that have acquired full growth, the cabbage is large, in form not unlike the thick part of the tusk of the elephant, perfectly white, and in long thin convolute flakes.

When boiled, it is exceedingly pleasant to the taste, closely resembling that of the artichoke; and in its natural state animals of most kinds eat of it with avidity. It likewise forms a very agreeable pickle, in which way it is often used. The young Cocoa-nut tree also contains a similar kind of substance within its trunk, equally good with the above; but in this it is found nearer the root.

The Silk Cotton tree, a species of the *Bombax* of Linnæus, in this country attains an height nearly equal to the former; and whilst in bloom, is certainly one of the most splendid productions of nature.* At such season it is entirely crowned with a profusion of brilliant flowers of rich and variegated hues, of which the

* This is not altogether assented to by Browne, Nat. Hist. Jamaica, Fol. 277. But the species of which he speaks, as being common to the East and West Indies, may perhaps differ from that which is found on the American continent.

colour of the carnation is the most predominant. This bloom is suddenly succeeded by a multitude of small pods which contain the cotton, and that burst when sufficiently ripe. The crop of cotton it affords is said to be triennial.* The trunk of this tree is much used in the building of canoes and small vessels.

For purposes of a medicinal nature, the variety of trees and shrubs peculiar to this country is astonishingly great. Independent of which, many others have become familiar to it from cultivation. Of the former, the *Jatropha*, or Physic nut, claims particular notice. It is the property of this nut to act upon the human system either in the way of emetic or cathartic; or if it be required, powerfully as both; effects which depend on the mode of its preparation, and which in all ways is intimately understood by the

* Natural Hist. of Guiana, Oct. 66.

inhabitants. It is very generally considered one of the most efficacious antidotes to bile, and consequently must be deemed singularly valuable in a climate where the disposition to such habit is so prevalent.

The Palma Christi, from which the castor oil is obtained, grows abundantly.

The plant which bears the name of the Vegetable Musk, or, as it is commonly called, Snake Okro, is also plentiful. The seeds of this contain an highly aromatic oil; and which when bruised and taken internally, are believed to be an infallible remedy for the bite of the most venomous snake. An application to the wounded part, in the way of poultice, of the same kind, is likewise recommended. The Eryngo, also a native of Honduras, is much resorted to for the like purpose.

The Dolichos pruriens, or Cowhage, is common. Its generally established qua-

lity as a powerful vermifuge is well known, and occasions it to be much used in this country.

The *Contrayerva*, a species of the *Dorstenia* of Linnæus, is found in almost every spot. A preparation from the root of this is known to produce abortion, and is much used for such purpose by negro females. This practice is extremely common with these people, and has its avowed professors.

The *Digitalis*, or Foxglove, is a native of the high lands. The well known article of Sarsaparilla is plentifully obtained to the southward of the English settlement, and forms a profitable export. Four sorts of *Ipecacuanha* have also been enumerated.

The *Gouania*, or Chaw-stick, is also abundant. This is the common dentifrice of the aborigines, from whom the use of it has been learned; and for preserving the teeth pure and delicately

white, this simple application perhaps exceeds all others. With the natives any appearance of decay in this respect very rarely occurs.

It will not be contended, that the foregoing can be considered other than an imperfect and diminutive catalogue of the class of vegetable productions of which it attempts to speak. For, with the requisite ability to accomplish such an undertaking, and which in the present instance is not by any means assumed, it would certainly demand months, if not years, to investigate with any kind of fidelity the profuse variety of subjects dispersed over the immense forests and plains peculiar to this part of the world. There can however be little doubt, but that such research would be most amply rewarded, by the extent and value of the discoveries it would be enabled to make.

CHAP. VII.

Natural history continued. Quadrupeds.

MANY of the animals found at Honduras are such as are common to the continent of America generally. A very considerable variety, however, will be recognised as the inhabitants of the warmer latitudes of it only.

It is believed that few, if any, of the domestic kind of quadrupeds which are familiarly known in Europe, can be traced as the natives of this quarter of the world. But the supposition rather is, that the greater number of this description have become naturalized to it, from having been introduced by the early European settlers.

It would be entirely foreign to the end in view to particularize the number and

quality of animals of the above class, it having been already remarked, that they are chiefly such as are common to most parts of the earth. But certainly, it may be repeated, in no part of it, if the least care or attention be extended towards them, can every species thrive better, or more abundantly multiply. Within the Spanish territory in particular, Nature has supplied a rich and almost boundless pasturage, and where the number of cattle and horses raised is prodigious. Many of the latter, so little are they regarded, return to a state of wildness, and associate in immense droves, from which it frequently becomes a task of much difficulty and danger to reclaim them.

Of the less familiar or unreclaimed kinds, which inhabit this country, we may begin by naming two kinds of Tiger, the *Felis Onca*, or Brazilian; and the *Discolor*, or Black. The former species is extremely numerous, and often commits the

most open and daring outrages on the plantations of the settlers. Sheep, goats, and hogs, are the particular objects of its depredation. Reports are also given that it has sometimes attacked man, but it is considered that such are unfounded; for it fortunately happens, that the otherwise established reputation for courage in this animal is usually found deficient in this respect. The Black Tiger, which is deemed much the fiercest, is but rarely discovered. The *Felis Pardalis*, or Mexican cat, is likewise common, and proves very destructive to the smaller kinds of stock, such as poultry, &c.

The Deer; and a species of Gazelle, or Antelope, are both abundant. The former of the small fallow kind, and which inhabits most parts of the American continent, and the islands contiguous to it. The meat this animal affords is always found extremely poor, which may most probably be attributed to the very ha-

raised life so timid and inoffensive a creature is forced to undergo. In the immense forests of this country it is surrounded by enemies, of which the tiger is the most frequent, and not the least inveterate. Nor is it by any means secure from the hostility of the inhabitant of another element, the alligator; a monster which infests every watery spot, and whose stratagems are often successfully employed in surprising animals of larger and swifter kind than itself. The Gazelle is a most beautiful little creature, and has been considered the Dorcas, or Barbarian Antelope, of Linnæus. It is about half the size of the deer.

The existence of the Antelope will perhaps, in this instance, be received with questionable accuracy, as it appears in contradiction to the established opinions of some of the most able and distinguished naturalists. Mr. Pennant, in particular, has determined, that not a

single species of it has been discovered in any part of the new world. If the animal in question, however, and which in this country is not known by any other name, be not a member of this tribe, it might be difficult to point out to what other class it should properly belong. The resemblance, as far as description can be relied on, is in every respect essentially the same.

The Peccary, and the Warree, are animals of the hog kind. The former is the *Sus Tajassu* of Linnæus; or the *Tajassu* of other naturalists. On the back of this animal is placed a glandulous orifice, which has furnished a very common belief that in this part of it the navel is situated. The flesh of the Peccary is considered particularly good either fresh or saked; but on killing it, if the glands just mentioned be not instantly removed, the whole carcase becomes tainted with the most noxious and fetid odour. The

latter animal has not been so particularly described. It has been denominated the hog of the isthmus of Darien; and an opinion has been suggested, that it may only be the European hog run wild. Both the Peccary and the Warree usually go in large bodies; and at such times it is not considered at all safe to wound or kill any of the party, by firing on them, unless a retreat or place of security be nigh; for those which remain unhurt commonly avenge the injury in the most desperate way. The approach of these animals may be heard in the woods at a great distance, by the loud and clamorous noise they continually make; and like the domestic hog, it is asserted that they destroy and eat snakes and reptiles of different kinds.

The Gibeonite, (*Cavia Paca*) is a small animal greatly resembling, though somewhat larger than, the guinea-pig. It is plentifully found at Honduras, and easily

domesticated. The flesh of it is extolled as a peculiar delicacy. Under the same head may be included the Indian Coney, or Agouti, which sometimes has been confounded with the former. This animal, in size, form, and habit, is very like the hare. It does not run, but leaps; and whilst in the act of listening, it rears itself on the hind legs exactly in the same way. The meat of it is wholesome, but exceedingly dry.

Of the Armadillo, three species are very commonly found; the three, eight, and nine banded. They are all easily tamed, and are most inoffensive little animals. But in this state they seldom long exist; a circumstance that is believed to be chiefly owing to the difficulty of supplying them with the kind of food to which they have been accustomed, and which principally consists of the insects found in the decayed roots of trees. It has been generally asserted that this

animal feeds on fruits, &c.; an opinion that has been in some degree contradicted by observation. The Armadillo forms another luxury of the table in this country.

The Quash, a species of the Viverra, at the head of which is placed the celebrated Ichneumon, is likewise an inhabitant of this part of America; and, like that singular animal, is destructive to most kinds of vermin. Whenever the Quash makes an attack, it rather strikes with its teeth than bites, and always lacerates in a most severe degree. A dog of the best breed and courage, once wounded by this animal, will seldom again face it.

Two kinds of the Myrmecophaga, or Ant-eater, may also be enumerated; the Didactyla, and the Pentadactyla. These animals are easily domesticated; but are slothful and stupid, usually sleeping throughout the day, and roaming at night.

The smaller sort of Opossum, *Dorsigera*, is abundant. The singular way in which the females of most of this species protect their young from danger, by inclosing them in an abdominal pouch, is well known. When frightened or pursued, the young ones instinctively fly to this receptacle of the parent, which can be closed or opened at will.

The Racoon is extremely common, and very destructive to gardens, poultry, &c. The Grey Fox is likewise said to be a native of the mountainous parts; but if it be, it must be rare.

The small Red Squirrel is exceedingly numerous.

The *Hystrix Mexicana*, or Mexican Porcupine, is frequently taken in out-houses, and on the different plantations. The flesh of this animal is much commended by the negroes, by whom it is sought as a peculiar delicacy.

But of all the animals which may oc-

casionally be discovered in this country, the most extraordinary is unquestionably the Tapir; or as it is here vulgarly, and certainly with no great accuracy, named, the Mountain Cow. This animal is an inhabitant of the thickest and most retired woods in the neighbourhood of rivers and creeks. It is described as being about the size of a small cow, and is gregarious. It swims, dives, and is considered to possess the property of walking beneath the water. It may frequently be traced on the sands by the large, flat, and nearly round impression of its feet. As this animal cautiously avoids the day, it is but rarely met with. Sometimes, however, as the traveller pursues his course up the distant rivers, and when but little noise is made, it is surprised on the banks and shot. The meat of the Tapir, contrary to what has been pronounced of it, is in this country considered exceedingly coarse and rank.

The Monkey tribe is numerous, and the species various : though confined, it is believed, exclusively to the classes which naturalists have denominated Sapajous, and Sagoins. The animals of the former kind are peculiarly distinguishable from all others by the use they make of their tails, by which they seize and hold on the branches of trees or any other substance, supporting the whole weight of their bodies with surprising tenacity : even when desperately wounded, they are seldom known to quit this grasp but with life. It is very doubtful whether any of the Ape or Baboon species can be traced as inhabitants of the American continent, though such have occasionally been enumerated in the journals of travellers.

The Fatuellus, Horned Sapajou, the Apella, Brown Sapajou, and the Capucina, or Capuchin Monkey, are the kinds most frequently met with in the woods

of Honduras. The last is very common, and is a mild, playful little animal.

There is one species of monkey also found in this part of the world, which may perhaps have escaped particular notice. In size and form it resembles the Apella; and the female, in which the characteristic difference appears most strongly to exist, is peculiarly denoted by a loose fleshy appendant membrane, which frequently occasions its sex to be mistaken.

A monkey of this kind was for many months an inhabitant of the writer's quarters. It was the most gentle creature imaginable, and passionately fond of wine or spirits of any kind, if highly sweetened. When so indulged, it would invariably sip to intoxication, and then become unboundedly sportive and diverting; frequently seizing a small kitten, an inmate of the same abode, and springing with it up the rafters with extraordi-

nary agility, but taking care always to return it unhurt on the floor. In this way this singular animal would continue until overpowered by fatigue, and then drop on its hands to sleep. Indeed the chief characteristic of this species seems to belong to the ludicrous.

The persons engaged in mahogany cutting, whites and blacks, include the monkey in the foremost delicacies the woods afford. But we should wish to believe, that the singularly affecting circumstances, often accompanying the destruction of this animal, would in most instances operate as a powerful incentive to let it remain undisturbed. It is commonly told, that when the mother and her young are found together (a very usual thing), and one falls or is wounded by the hunter's aim, that the other is seldom known to quit its afflicted companion, but to cling to it, and bewail the disaster with piteous cries and la-

mentations. In this way they both become prey.

The Manati, which is described as forming the boundary between quadrupeds and fishes, has been previously noticed as an inhabitant of the waters contiguous to the shores of Honduras. The male and female of this species of animal are usually found together, and whilst sporting on the surface of the different lagoons, are frequently destroyed by the harpoon or dart, in the use of which the slaves of the Settlement, and the Indians of the neighbouring Mosquito nation, are wonderfully dexterous. The extraordinary size of this singular production has likewise been remarked. The flesh of it is particularly admired, and thought equal to the finest veal. The tail, which forms the most valuable part of the Manati, after having laid some days in a pickle prepared for it with spices, &c. and eaten cold, is a discovery of which

Apicius might have been proud, and which the discriminating palate of Heliogabalus would have thought justly entitled to the most distinguished reward.

With the above observation, an opinion cannot but suggest itself, that curiosity equally with necessity, must in a great variety of instances have actuated man in the attempt of converting many productions, animal and vegetable, into the means of his gratification or support. But surely it could only have been the latter, and that of the most peremptory kind, which first placed on the table some things now classed among its choicest delicacies—we need only name the turtle, guana, &c. &c.

To place this somewhat beyond contradiction, the following, as nearly as can be recollected, is the substance of a bill of fare of an entertainment given several years ago by the officers of a detachment of the 3d Regiment (Buffs) at their

station on the Mosquito shore. And although the original, for it appeared in print in some of the journals about the same time, cannot now be reached, yet the singularity and variety of the dishes need not be questioned.

Fercula nunc audi nullis ornata macellis.

JUV. SAT. ii.

BILL OF FARE.

CALIPASH.

MANATI
soused

GUANA
fricaseed.

WARREER
steaks.

MONKEY
barbacued.

ARMADILLO
curry.

TURTLE-SOUP

PARROT
pie.

ANTELOPE
roasted.

PECCARY
smoked.

INDIAN-RABBIT
boiled.

HICCATEE
stewed.

CALIPEE.

The *Entremets*, for the above might possibly be but the *first course*—the substantials of the feast, must have been quite as rare, and equally strange to an home-bred palate. Yet without their aid there must have been enough to appease the cravings of the most capricious *gourmand*. With the exception of three dishes of civic celebrity, the skill of the most finished adept in the culinary art can scarcely have gone so far.

Nec sibi coenarum quivis temere arroget artem;

Non prius exacta tenui ratione saporum.

HOR. SAT.

CHAP. VIII.

Natural History continued. Birds.

OF the several productions in animated nature connected with tropical countries, few have more powerfully awakened the admiration of the naturalist than the number and splendid variety of their feathered inhabitants. It will not, however, be contended, that any of the birds of the new world, at least such as are known in that part of it to which these sketches are confined, are entitled to claim a competition with those of the old, in the agreeable powers of harmony and song. Surrendering therefore such pretension, the former must remain content to place their claim for distinction on another qualification—the gaiety of their attire; and in which, with few ex-

ceptions, they may equally defy all rivalry.

Indeed, in some instances, it would almost seem, and such may be the influence of climate, that in individuals of the same species an additional lustre had been acquired from the accidental difference of the degrees of latitude under which they had become placed. Thus it certainly happens with the Turkey, which is a native of most parts of America: that in the colder region of Canada is greatly extolled for the brilliancy of its plumage; but that in more southerly and hot situations, is admitted, by all who have beheld it, to be the most superb production of nature. The splendid garb of the peacock, even that of Thibet, which is said to surpass the whole of the feathered creation, cannot perhaps greatly exceed the beauty of this.

In this part of the continent, the Turkey is usually discovered in the thickest

and most sequestered recesses of the woods. It can rarely be taken alive, and when so taken has seldom been known to exist any time. In the northern parts of America it is gregarious; but in the neighbourhood of Honduras, it is not often seen in the company of more than one associate. The eggs of this bird have frequently been taken from the nest, and placed under the domestic hen of the same species, and hatched; but the young ones produced in this way seldom live, and if not closely confined, invariably disappear, in quest, as it is supposed, of more congenial haunts.

The bird next in size to the Turkey in this country, and whose habits are nearly similar, is the Curassow; a species of the Crax, of the order Gallinæ, of Linnæus. This also is remarkably beautiful, and in one respect differs very materially from the generally established order of nature, the male being found much inferior in

size and plumage to the female. The former is nearly black, having only a few downy white feathers on the lower part of its belly. The latter is of a deep rich chocolate colour, with variegated spots of white and black on its neck and pinions. The shape of both is delicately proportioned; and the crest which is placed on the head in a longitudinal form, and which is erected when their attention is excited, gives to both a stately and majestic appearance. These birds soon become perfectly domesticated, going about and feeding familiarly with poultry, &c. They are extremely impatient of cold, which renders their removal to other countries to be seldom attended with success.

Of the same order may likewise be included the *Penelope Cristata*, or *Quam*, as it is named in this part of the world. In appearance this bird has little to recommend it, but it is eagerly sought on

account of the delicacy of its flesh, which is thought equal to that of the pheasant. The Coquericot, another inhabitant of the woods, is much admired in the same way.

The Partridge, with the exception of one species, the Tetrao Nævius, or Mexican Partridge, has not, it is believed, been discovered to inhabit any part of America. The single bird of the kind just mentioned, however, is quite common in the neighbourhood of Honduras; and in size, form, and the colour and disposal of its feathers, very closely resembles the Guinea-hen. The Quail at particular seasons is plentifully found in the pine-lands, and affords considerable amusement to the sportsman.

The Dove is common; and several kinds of the Wood-pigeon are also abundant. There is one species of the latter in particular, which is perhaps the Leucocephala, or White-crowned Pigeon of

Linnaeus, that is migratory from the mountainous parts of the continent to a small island or key about twenty miles distant from the settlement of Balize in a north-east direction. This spot, in consequence of the annual resort of these birds during the months of July and August, has obtained the name of Pigeon-key. And the principal motives for this visit would in all likelihood be found in the avoidance of some enemy, and for the purpose of rearing their young in security, for as soon as the latter object is accomplished they entirely disappear. But the parent does not find even this retreat free from peril, for during the latter part of the season, and when the objects of its care have acquired some size, numerous parties, chiefly of young negroes, repair to this haunt, and bring off vast numbers, which are afterwards retailed by the score. The nests being formed on the limbs and branches of the lowest trees,

the young Pigeons are consequently obtained with the least possible difficulty; and the old ones afford no inconsiderable attraction to the marksman, for, thus disturbed, they present themselves to his aim in every direction, and much faster than his gun can be prepared for them. The old birds have a peculiarly disagreeable bitter taste, but the young ones are extremely rich and well flavoured, and on being first taken are deemed very choice food.

Of the Crane species, the *Platalea Ajaja*, or Spoonbill, is the most common. The plumage of this bird may be considered handsome, being chiefly of a bright scarlet colour, but in every other respect it is singularly ugly and deformed. With the above may be included several members of the numerous tribe of the Heron, and which are more familiarly known by the names of the grey, blue, and white Gauding, &c. Many kinds

of the Plover, and of the Curlew, are also regularly periodical visitants.

During the season of the rains, the Snipe abounds in the swamps and marshes. At the same period the different rivers and lakes are likewise plentifully stocked with wild Ducks, Teal, &c. The Muscovy Duck is very frequently shot in the neighbourhood of Balize.

Two species of the Maccaw, the *Psittacus Macao*, and the *P. Aracango*, the red and blue, and the red and yellow, are natives of the woods to the southward of Balize; in which direction an almost infinite variety of the Parrot kind can also be found. The greater part of the latter are quickly domesticated, and if taken young are as suddenly taught to talk fluently. The kinds which are most esteemed for their aptness in this respect are the yellow, and the blue-headed. The former of which is extremely numerous in the country of the Mosquito Indians,

and on the contiguous Island of Rustan. The confused clamorous noise of these birds may be heard from the last place some miles before the shore is gained. The smaller sorts, or Parakeets, are equally abundant, and many of them are extremely pretty.

The Toucan, or Bill-bird as it is denominated in this country, is very common. Its plumage is prettily variegated; but it is remarkably singular for the length and breadth of its bill, which is nearly equal to the bigness of its body, and this is about the size of that of the jack-daw.

A species of the Oriole, which in Honduras has obtained the name of the Banana-bird, perhaps from its resorting to the fruit of the Banana tree for its food, is greatly admired for the beauty of its dress, which forms an elegant intermixture of the most gay and vivid colours. This bird is little larger than the Euro-

pean goldfinch. But the most singular individual of this kind, is the *O. Dominiensis*, or St. Domingo Oriole of Linnæus, which is also an inhabitant of this country, and is somewhat larger than the former. Immense numbers of this species resort to the neighbourhood of the river Sibun, where they form their pendent nests at the extreme end of the branches of the tallest trees, and generally overhanging the water. Frequently upwards of an hundred of these habitations may be found on a single tree, and the busy and clamorous solicitude of the old ones in attendance on their young cannot but be particularly interesting to the spectator.

The Rice-bird, the *Emberiza Oryzivora* of Linnæus, or as it is frequently termed, from its peculiar richness and delicacy, the American Ortolan (a distinction that an epicurean palate must confess to be not undeservedly bestowed on

it), is also migratory, and is usually found in this country on plantations where the grain is cultivated from which it has derived its familiar appellation.

The whole of this extensive coast, and the numerous islands and keys annexed to it, abound with an infinite variety of the aquatic species, which are chiefly such as are usually found within the tropics. Of which, however, the Pelican and the Cormorant may be viewed as being the most predominant. The peculiar transparency of the sea in most seasons in this quarter of the world, the multitude and extraordinary variety of its inhabitants, and the great depths at which these may be clearly discerned, are powerful inducements to attempt the resort of such voracious neighbours.

Myriads of swallows are also the occasional inhabitants of Honduras. The time of their residence is generally confined to the period of the rains, after

which they totally disappear. There is something remarkably curious and deserving of notice in the ascent of these birds. As soon as the dawn appears, they in a body quit their place of rest, which is usually chosen amidst the rushes of some watery savannah, and invariably rise to a certain height in a compact spiral form, and which at a distance often occasions them to be taken for an immense column of smoke. This attained, they are then seen separately to disperse in search of food, the occupation of their day. To those who may have had the opportunity of observing the phenomenon of a water-spout, the similarity of evolution in the ascent of these birds will be thought surprisingly striking. The descent, which regularly takes place at sun-set, is conducted much in the same way, but with inconceivable rapidity. And the noise which accompanies it can only be compared to the falling of an immense tor-

rent, or the rushing of a violent gust of wind. Indeed, to an observer it seems wonderful that thousands of these birds are not destroyed in being thus propelled to the earth with such irresistible force.

The Humming-bird, in the greater number of its splendid varieties, can perhaps be found in this country. The *Exilis*, one of the most minute and beautiful of this elegant tribe, is quite common. The singular ferocity of this little creature is astonishing. Disappointed of its repast, the honey of a flower, it has been frequently observed to tear and scatter the leaves in the most passionate way. And in the contests it holds with its own species for the possession of some favourite blossom, it often happens that the death of one of the claimants alone grants the other an undisturbed enjoyment of the prize.

CHAP. IX.

Natural History concluded. Fishes. Reptiles.

OF the Fishes which inhabit the seas and rivers of Honduras, perhaps the following catalogue may afford the most distinct and comprehensive view. Some kinds of them will be recognized; as being likewise familiar to many parts of Europe, but the greater number will be found common to the coast of America generally, and to the West India islands.

Rock-fish

Stone-bass

Hog-fish

Sword-fish

Jew-fish

Gar-fish

King-fish

Parrot-fish*

Baracouta

Cavallee

* This fish is the *Coryphæna Psittacus* of Linnaeus, and is certainly one of the most beautiful of the watery tribe. The description of it, is given by

Grooper	Snook
Drummer	Sting-ray
Piper	Pike
Tropon	Old-wife
Mudfish	Flounder
Snapper (red)	Eel
Ditto (black)	Porgee
Mullet	Grunt
Ditto (Mountain*)	Cat-fish
Calapaver	Sprat †
Mackarel (Spanish)	Porpoise
Sheep-head	Shark, &c.

that faithful historian of nature, must be the best that can be supplied.—“ Head finely variegated; iridescent flame colour, surrounded with blue; in the middle of the body towards the back a purple rhombic spot, varied with green, yellow, and blue; vent in the middle of the body; dorsal and anal fins linear, reaching nearly to the tail.” Turton's *Linnaeus*, oct: vol. i. 744. It is very generally considered poisonous, and therefore never eaten.

* Perhaps the *Mugil Albula*. This fish is deemed the most choice of its species, and is usually caught at some distance up the rivers of this country.

† The *Clupea Thrisa* of naturalists. This fish,

The variety of Shell-fish with which every part of this coast abounds can scarcely be exceeded in any part of the world. Three species of the Turtle, the Green, the Logger-head, and the Hawks-bill, are taken in their seasons in prodigious numbers. The former kind from having been included, at least in this country, amongst the foremost necessities of life, constitutes an advantageous employment to those engaged in taking it: an allusion to this occupation has been made in the preceding pages. The

which is somewhat larger than the common sprat, is much admired for the sweetness of its flavour, though in certain situations, at particular seasons, it is considered to be highly poisonous, a quality which in this, however, it is not thought at any time to possess. In some of the West India islands, especially in that of Nevis, it can rarely be eaten from the above circumstance. This noxious property is also very generally determined to belong to some other species when taken in certain latitudes; namely the Baracouta, Snook, &c. &c.

Sea-Lobster, or as it is here called, the **Craw-fish**, is extremely plentiful, and is much admired for the whiteness and delicacy of its meat. Crabs are also caught in great numbers, and are equally esteemed. The **Mangrove Oyster**, so named from its adhering in clusters to the branches of the tree of the above name, which incline to the water, is likewise found in most places, but is perhaps the most inferior of the species. The **Conque**, and the **Wilk**, are abundant in the neighbourhood of the different keys, and afford a wholesome and nutritious food.

The rivers and creeks of the interior supply a great variety of the fresh-water **Turtle**, or **Hickatee**. These, though smaller than the sea turtle, are in no other respect inferior.

It is very far from being pretended that the above should in any shape be considered other than an extremely limited enumeration of the inhabitants of this

vast element, as connected with this part of the world. The kinds, therefore, that have been thus briefly noticed, must only be viewed as being such as came most frequently under familiar observation, and which consequently seemed more intimately allied to the present attempt.

The number and variety of Reptiles which infest most hot countries are known to be astonishingly great. And perhaps few situations could be found to exceed the one of which we more particularly speak, in both respects.

Snakes of several species are numerous; but fortunately the greater part of them are not considered of a dangerous description. The Rattle-snake is very frequently seen in the high lands, but is seldom found so large as in the American States.

The Black-snake is also common, but harmless. The kinds which, next to the first mentioned, are avoided as being the most venomous, are those which have ob-

tained from the Settlers the familiar names of the Tommy Goff, and the Barber's Pole. These usually infest out-houses or thatched buildings.

The snake called the Wowler, which is more plentifully discovered than any of the former, grows to an immense size, and its appearance is certainly terrific; but it is only in this way that it is alarming, as it has never been known to hurt the human species. It is nevertheless, a mortal enemy to birds generally, and to the smaller kinds of animals, which it usually swallows entire.

The woods abound with almost every kind of the Lizard tribe; and the Guana, or Iguana, which, next to the alligator, may be viewed as the largest of this class, is eagerly sought as a peculiar delicacy. The Basilisk, in appearance the most disgusting of this unsightly family, is likewise common. It invariably flies the approach of man, and appears but to

direct its hostility against the insects which seem to have been appointed for its support.

Of the inferior species of Lizard, the Gally-wasp, and the Wood-slave, are the only kinds in this country that have the reputation of being venomous; the former, however, is thought particularly so, and much dreaded. They both are the frequent inhabitants of old buildings. But much the greater number of the members of this class will be found, if prejudice can be surmounted, and the least encouragement be extended towards them, the most inoffensive little creatures in nature, and that may even be soon brought into a state of playful familiarity.

In conclusion it may be observed, that it would greatly exceed the limits of any undertaking which had not professedly embarked on the subject, to point out, from a mass so infinite, the individual objects most entitled to investigation. This

therefore, is left to more competent ability, with the unaspiring, but sincere hope, that whatever may be found imperfect in the foregoing sketches of the vegetable and animal economy of an highly interesting part of the world, may be early supplied by superior science and industry.

From all that has been advanced in the preceding pages, it may be concluded, that the possession of an establishment at Honduras will be considered of material importance in more respects than one. It has been suggested, that the advantages at present derived from it, however valuable, are of a limited description, and arise almost exclusively from the capability it holds of supplying the commodities of mahogany and logwood. With the above an opinion has

been also entertained, when these advantages shall have ceased, an event that may be expected, that the loss of them will be compensated for in the possession of many others, of a different but not less interesting kind. It must be understood, that such, it is believed, would in a principal degree be found in the benefits annexed to cultivation.

To this, however, an objection may be anticipated, and one that at first may appear to bear with it no inconsiderable force,—that the interest of the parent state will not now be found allied to new and extended systems of colonization ; and consequently, that the inclination to encourage or foster such attempts will be reluctantly shown by it. To a great extent the reasoning on which this is founded is incontrovertible, for it cannot be denied, that many of the colonies dependant on Great Britain have long been considered rather of incumbrance

than advantage to it; and the persons connected with them have had equally to regret the disproportionate reward their industry has found from the imperfect returns of an exhausted soil. That this happens in some of the larger, but in the greater number of the smaller, West India Islands, those who hold any acquaintance with them will not hesitate to affirm. And with regard to many of the islands which have been recently acquired by conquest, perhaps little value or importance can be attached; but as their being so much wrested from the possession of the enemy, and from the increased security that has thus been conferred on our own. In a cultivable point of view, it will possibly be found; that many of the objections which extend to the older British colonies, are applicable in an equal degree to such as lately belonged to France;

The foregoing has been a leading

cause, among many others, of forcing numbers of planters to seek new situations, flattered with the hope of meeting more perfect success. Hence it has happened, that migrations latterly from the West Indies, generally, to the fertile but unhealthy colonies of Surinam and Demarara have become so frequent; and which, in all likelihood, would have taken place much earlier, but for the fluctuating and uncertain state of the government of these countries—an inconvenience, from the consequence that is now affixed to them, which it is not probable they will again undergo. It is also well known, that for several years past, numbers of the inhabitants of the Bahama islands, originally loyalists from America, have supplicated the government of the latter for permission to return with their families and slaves. This disposition has arisen from no sudden impulse, but has merely grown out of the

necessity of the thing—the inadequate return that for a series of years an impoverished soil has conferred on their labours.

In dwelling, therefore, with some share of earnestness on the resources that might be found at Honduras, it may seem evident, that it is not so much intended, to draw attention to the forming of *new* establishments, as to point out what, to a certain extent, might be capable of amending that which has become defective in the *old*. But whether it be contemplated exclusively in this way, or but as the channel or means of leading to a greater degree of intimacy than has hitherto prevailed with the rich and interesting colonies so immediately contiguous to it, and thereby of affording favourable opportunities for the extension of our commercial enterprise, in either respect it cannot be deemed unworthy of regard.

It remains only to be observed, that it is equally distant from being intended to invite to a change of country, by sketching in delusive or fanciful colours, the advantages of this remote quarter—this *Ultima Thule*. Yet it may be asserted, and it is believed observation of the closest kind would not invalidate the fact, that few situations could be found, where industrious effort would, under particular circumstances, find more perfect reward. Such is the generosity of the climate and soil, and the natural advantages connected with it. But now must be brought into view what perhaps will appear most materially to subtract from the whole. The adoption of modes of life and labour entirely new—a seclusion from society and all its endearments—the want of opportunities of all kinds for the education and moral improvement of a family—and last, though far from being of least consideration, the inconvenience that

health may encounter in the change. On these, the adventurer to this, or to any other distant land, should pause—should maturely inquire, whether a sufficient share of fortitude in the hour of trial might be found to bear against accidents so various and severe. It is no doubt to be lamented, for the happiness of many of our fellow beings who venture on so hazardous an experiment, that this sort of previous investigation too rarely occurs; and that all such sober reasoning is either borne down by the weight of present ills, or hastily thrust aside by the golden visions that have been raised.

SKETCHES
OF THE
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS
OF THE
MOSQUITO INDIANS,
MADE DURING A SHORT RESIDENCE AMONGST THEM
IN THE YEAR 1804;
PRECEDED BY THE JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE TO THE
MOSQUITO SHORE.

—— Juvat integros accedere fontes
Atque haurire —— LUCRETIVS.

JOURNAL
OF A
VOYAGE
TO THE
MOSQUITO SHORE.

THURSDAY, September the 27th, at two in the afternoon, I sailed from Balize in the bay of Honduras, on board the schooner Huntress, for the Mosquito shore, having under my charge a variety of presents ordered by government for the chiefs of the above nation. The companions of my voyage were an Indian Major, named Hall, about six or seven men of his country, and a like number of Charibes, who accompanied us in a small open boat. The last, I may observe, are

the remains of a race of people now almost extinct, the aboriginal inhabitants of some of the West India islands, particularly that of St. Vincent. Before sun-set we had passed many of the numerous keys of the Bay, and at the close of the evening were abreast of the larger one of Turneff. At eight we came to an anchor for the night off Key Bokel.

Friday, 28th.—An hour after day-light we got under weigh. The morning dark and heavy, with rain and thunder. Our wind fair, with a good deal of sea. Towards noon the weather became fine and clear. Bush key in sight on our lee quarter, Glover's reef on our lee bow, and the high mountains of the continent to the north-west. About three we went on shore on Glover's Key, which is contiguous to the reef; we had previously caught, whilst sailing, several remarkably large fine fish. On this Key we obtained an abundant supply of cocoa nuts, and plenty

of different kinds of shell fish. We returned on board to dinner at four, and immediately after put to sea. Before dark we took the Charaibes in tow, they having expressed their apprehension of parting from us, and falling in with the Spaniards, whom they consider their most implacable foes. Our favourable weather continued during the night.

Saturday, 29th.—At sun-rise becalmed, with heavy rain. At ten a breeze favoured us, and shortly after the high mountain of Congrehoy showed itself, bearing from us about south-south-east. At one, the island of Ruatan directly a head in a south-east direction, and that of Utila to the south-west. In the afternoon becalmed, distant from Ruatan about three miles : becalmed also during the greater part of the night.

Sunday, 30th.—For the most part of the day the calm continued. At ten we dispatched the Charaibes on shore at

Ruatan for cocoa nuts. From the sea this island appears singularly rich and beautiful. It is entirely covered with trees, of which the cocoa nut is the most common. Oaks, pines, and many others of various descriptions are also abundant on it. Ruatan is considerably larger than many of the West India islands which are cultivated. Its soil, and the natural advantages connected with it, might perhaps be found in no degree inferior to any of them. It abounds with deer, wild-hogs, Indian rabbits, and birds of many species; parrots are innumerable, and their incessant noisy chattering may be heard a considerable distance from the shore. The Spaniards have a kind of military station or look-out post on this island: this, however, may rather be considered as intended to establish their right to it by occupancy than as a means of defence, as the force does not consist of more than five or six men. Towards

the evening a breeze springing up, we once more pursued our course, and shortly afterwards cleared Ruatan, and passed the small adjoining islands of Helene, Moratte, and Barbarette; these may be deemed only as detached parts of the former, being merely separated from it, and from each other, by a narrow channel of the sea. At sun set we saw the island of Bonacca, distant about eight leagues. During the whole of the night the wind was adverse and the Charaibes had nearly parted from us, the tow-line of their boat having broke.

Monday, 30th.—Off the north side of Bonacca at day break. A fresh gale from the south-east with a long heavy sea rolling. At nine went on shore. The Charaibes employed the whole forenoon repairing their vessel. Some of the Indians, almost as soon as we had landed, went into the bushes and shot several large parrots. The part of the island we

were on was highly romantic and picturesque, and, like Ruatan, profusely covered with trees. Its natural productions appeared nearly the same. The little bay in which we anchored was of great depth, and so transparent that the shell fish and coral rocks at the bottom might be clearly discerned. On this island we found the flies and mosquitoes intolerably troublesome. At four we were again under weigh, having previously dispatched the Charaibes before us. Towards evening we got round Bonacca, our wind blowing fresh from the south-east, with much sea. Vivid lightning during the greater part of the night.

Tuesday, Oct. 1st.—At sun rise six leagues from Bonacca; wind blowing hard from the north-east, and Truxillo bearing from us about south. At ten we cast off the Charaibes with some of the Indians to make their way along shore. The main land in a south-east direction

from us, and distant about eight leagues. The wind increased considerably at sunset, and, as on the preceding night, the sea ran high. During the night we got round the point of Black-river. It may be observed, that on this river there was formerly an English Settlement, and very extensive plantations of sugar, coffee, &c.

Wednesday 2d.—Early in the morning we were close in with the low lands which approximate the Mosquito country. From eight until eleven becalmed, when we were favoured with a strong sea breeze. The whole of the day we coasted along the sea beach, which extends many miles, and is skirted with a continued grove of palmetto trees. About eight in the evening one of our Indian companions, flushed, not with the Tuscan grape, but with new Jamaica rum, fell overboard, but being a most expert swimmer, as indeed are the whole of his countrymen, he supported himself with little difficulty

until we hoisted out our boat and got him again on board.

Thursday 3d.—This morning becalmed. A boat with Charaibes visited us from the shore. On its leaving us I dispatched a message to General Robinson, the principal of the chiefs with whom I had business, announcing my being near the place of our destination, and requesting that he, with the rest of the chiefs, would give me an early meeting. Towards the middle of the day we had a pleasant breeze from the north-west, and passed the mouth of the river Patook. Our course still continued along the shore, which appeared entirely level with scarcely the interruption of an hillock. At noon we were abreast of the plantations of our fellow-voyager, Major Hall, and discovered some of his people at work on his grounds. The countenances of the Indians on board brightened at being again so near their home. At seven we reached the entrance

of the Sound or Lagoon of Caratasca. Darkness, however, prevented our crossing the bar, and we came to an anchor for the night, and a most unpleasant one it proved from a heavy swelling sea, which occasioned our little vessel to roll intolerably.

Friday, 4th.—We got up our anchor at seven, but almost immediately afterwards it fell calm. A breeze again favoured us at eleven, and relieved us from the most violent heat that perhaps was ever felt. We passed the bar in a short time and entered the Lagoon of Caratasca, and had to beat up the remainder of our voyage, a distance of about two leagues, in a course directly contrary to the one we had pursued previous to entering it. It was almost the same as going back by the same sea, the space of land, dividing the navigation we had left from that we were in, not being more than a few hundred yards. We came to

an anchor off the Settlement of Crata at five. The Mosquito Indians have other settlements on both sides of the sound. This terminated our little voyage, which did not prove of as short duration as on setting out I was given to expect. Caratasca Lagoon is considered by the natives a day's journey in length: its breadth, which is nearly equal throughout, may be computed at about ten miles; it is shallow, and only navigable for vessels of small burden. On landing, I was immediately received by a Captain Potta, a man of some consequence in the Settlement of Crata, with most expressive marks of friendship and regard, and conducted by him to his habitation. The whole of the inhabitants of the Settlement soon crowded round me, and from all I could discover the same signs of welcome. An excellent supper of fowls, eggs, plantains, and the root of the Cassava, was expeditiously prepared, and I

do not recollect that I ever made a meal with more entire enjoyment. I passed the night with my Indian friend. Captain Potts appeared about sixty years of age, and a more kind, amiable being I never met. His attentions and hospitality were unceasing. He had three wives; the elder seemed of the same years with himself; the youngest certainly not more than sixteen; the other might be taken at the medium age of both.

Saturday, 5th.—As soon as I had breakfasted, I was informed that a house had been prepared for me to occupy during my stay. Few houses, I believe, had ever been raised with more expedition. It was begun and finished in one night; and although not after any known design of architecture, it was comfortable and commodious, sufficiently proof against the weather, and affording every requisite convenience for myself and servants.

Of the latter I never stood in less need, for the unremitting assiduity of the people of the country to be useful to me would scarcely allow of their interference in any thing. In the course of the day, numbers that I had not seen on my arrival, living contiguous to Crata, came and paid their respects, bringing presents of hogs, poultry, &c. &c. I invited three of the principal men to dine with me. After our meal was concluded, I gave several toasts expressive of regard for their nation and for perpetuating a good understanding between it and my own; all of which they perfectly understood and received with high marks of approbation.

Sunday, 6th.—The principal Mosquito chiefs not arriving as I expected, in the forenoon I dispatched other messengers to hasten them. During the remainder of the day I amused myself with short rambles round the Settlement of Crata, and was much delighted with the simple

and rural appearance of the Indian dwellings, and the very pleasing scenery which every where presented itself. I eagerly wished for the tasteful pencil of a Gilpin to delineate some of the many agreeable subjects before me; for, without the language of affectation, most of them were wholly worthy of it. At dinner I again entertained some of the natives, and the day terminated as happily as the preceding one had done.

Monday, 7th.—Early this morning I had the whole of the presents brought on shore. My visitors very much increased; and, at a little past four, I had the honour to receive the expected visit of General Robinson. I was greatly pleased with the affability of his deportment, and the evident satisfaction he discovered at our meeting. His suite was numerous, and the persons who composed it conducted themselves towards him with the most perfect respect and deference.

The general, as well as most of his attendants, was dressed in British regimentals, with epaulettes, sword, sash, &c. He appeared about thirty years of age, of pleasing features, a strong but active form, and somewhat above the middle height. He seemed likewise possessed of that which is not by any means characteristic of the Indian, an energetic and vigorous disposition. Many of the Mosquito people are of a mixed breed, between that of the aboriginal and African of the Samba country. General Robinson is entirely of Indian descent. The mixed race, however, is considered more active, industrious, and enterprising than the aboriginal.

Tuesday, 8th.—Immediately after breakfast, invariably an early one, I have always found my house filled with visitors since I came to the Settlement; and to such unfashionable lengths have these calls usually extended, that they

have regularly continued until bed-time. Under such trials, it may very well be believed, my patience must frequently have undergone somewhat too much for endurance. The remainder of the persons with whom I had business came in during the day, I accordingly appointed the next for the distribution of the presents. A measure which did not appear displeasing to the greater number of those who had been first with me, for I could often discover many an anxious and impatient eye directed towards the several packages which lay confusedly scattered about within my dwelling.

Wednesday, 9th.—As it might be expected, my appointment of yesterday produced an early assemblage of the men of Caratasca Sound this forenoon. Immediately after their arrival I concluded my business with them. But I must observe, that on this occasion, like most others of the same description, the ray of content did not beam from every eye.

I could plainly discern several, who seemed to consider the favours of my country by no means proportionate to their expectation or merit. This no doubt would alike have happened had the gifts with which I was entrusted been much more numerous and valuable. By the aid of that, however, which often makes man in more tutored situations forget the frowns of fortune, a liberal distribution of promise, I was soon successful enough to remove every appearance of dissatisfaction. An ox having been slaughtered for the occasion, I had as many as my house could contain to dine with me, and every thing passed with entire harmony. I cannot omit remarking, that the greater part of my guests, if not tastefully or fashionably dressed, were at least splendidly and variously so. I really believe the entire costume of Europe, civil and military, for the last hundred years, might at one view have presented itself at my table,

And whatever was once thought gay and ornamental in the brilliant and refined circles of London or Versailles, might perhaps be now considered equally so on the less polished shore of Caratasca. It often had been matter of surprise with me, to what earthly mart the venders of cast-off gaieties in London could consign the odd articles frequently decorating their doors: this astonishment ceased, the moment my company had collected in the Mosquito nation.

Thursday, 10th.—The Indian Chiefs, with their interpreter, assembled together this forenoon for the purpose of framing a suitable acknowledgement for the regard that had been shewn them by the British government. I obtained this in the afternoon, when I gave them to understand that my departure would take place with all expedition. General Robinson presented me with a horse: I had previously requested his acceptance of a pair of pis-

tols, my gorget, and some other trifles; I had also disposed of a few little matters amongst his officers. We again dined together; and the expressions of regret from all around me at my being about to leave the country entirely satisfied me that my conduct had not been displeasing to them.

Friday, 11th.—Occupied the chief part of the forenoon in making arrangements for sea. The weather, however, proved quite unfavourable to our getting off. It rained heavily, with thunder; it had thundered with much violence almost every day since my arrival. Many of the Indians returning to their homes came and took leave of me.

Saturday, 12th.—The weather boisterous and wet. This might truly be denominated a day of *ennui*; and though within the tropics, the overpowering influence of a November day in England was perhaps never more strongly felt.

Sunday 13th.—The weather continued entirely against our putting to sea. During the whole of the night it literally rained torrents. The heaviest rains in Europe might be considered April showers compared to the sheets of water which fell here. My roof, though of thatch resisted the storm surprizingly ; but I was not quite so fortunate in other respects, two sides of my dwelling being entirely open, and one of them on the quarter whence the storm came, it meeting no opposition there, deluged me completely. To add to the unpleasantness of the whole, vivid lightning, accompanied by the most awful thunder, continued incessantly until day-break. About three the sky became clear, and assumed a milder appearance, the wind being likewise fair, we took our departure from Crata. The natives, on my parting with them, gave me every assurance of their wishes that my voyage might be prosperous and

short, and that an opportunity might speedily occur of my being deputed to visit them again. We crossed the Lagoon of Caratasca in a short time, where I had an appointment with General Robinson, and others of the Chiefs, to receive some presents of stock, &c. &c. for Colonel B——, and came to anchor for the night. I omitted to mention, that on getting under weigh and hoisting our colours, the inhabitants of Crata gave us a salute of musquetry, which our small party instantly returned.

Monday, 14th.—Early this morning General Robinson came on board our vessel, and shortly afterwards I accompanied him on shore. Whilst the matters I had to take with me were collecting, I amused myself with a walk of about a mile through a spacious savanna, and the scenery on this side the Lagoon certainly greatly surpassed that we had left on the other. This savanna, for a very con-

siderable extent, formed an entire level of continued verdure, and of the finest pasturage; skirted on one side by the water of the Lagoon, and bounded on the other by gentle rising hills. The clumps of pine and other lofty trees, interspersed at pleasing distances over the whole, gave the view all the appearance of cultivated art, and afforded a most agreeable relief to the eye. At the foot of the hills, the wood in places thickening, almost deluded the imagination to conceive, that in the bosom of these sequestered groves might be found the ornamental dwelling of some tasteful owner. But awaking from this, here all was Nature;

The negligence of Nature, wide and wild,
Where undisguised by mimic Art she spreads
Unbounded beauty to the roving eye. THOMSON.

Where even man acknowledges her almost uncontrolled sway. At twelve I again embarked, when we shaped our

course for the entrance of the Lagoon, where we arrived at sun-set, and came to anchor for the night ; but such a night ! Scarcely had I attempted to close my eyes, when a myriad of musquitoes and tormenting flies of every description found their way on board our vessel, and gave me feelingly to understand that it would be vain to seek

The timely dew of sleep.

Tuesday, 15th.—The forenoon employed in making preparation for sea. Several of the Indians whom I had parted with a few days before, met me at our anchorage, and brought with them presents of fruits and vegetables. The wind being unfair we remained stationary for the night, and, as on the one preceding, were again visited by our enemies the flies. That we should be troubled with such company did not appear extraordinary, when we discovered that the poor natives, in whole families, were forced

every night during our stay to quit their habitations on the shore, where the inconvenience was yet felt in a more severe degree, to sleep in their little barks on the water, to escape such horrid torments. Frequently there were not fewer than eight or ten of these boats around our vessel, and some of them containing not less than fifteen persons; their bed, a few loose leaves; their covering, the heavens.

Wednesday, 16th.—The sea deities have never shewn the smallest kindness for me. Ever awaited by foul winds; and who would not complain of foul winds in the latitude of $16^{\circ} 20'$ in a vessel of twelve tons, my allotment of it a space of six feet by four, and with no alternative, without incurring the danger of breaking my neck, of continually remaining prostrate? In such a situation, who would deny the natural propriety of the Eastern squat, or could help becoming a

convert to the singular opinions of Wortley Montague?

Thursday, 17th.—A sleepless night; not a moment's truce with the flies. The wind still blowing from the exact quarter to which our course must be shaped. My stock of patience being quite exhausted, I was about having recourse to philosophy, but, happily there was not any occasion for it, as at the moment the breeze became somewhat more kind, and we were about putting to sea: again arose a difficulty—our vessel fast aground—now she was off, and then the wind again was foul.

Friday, 18th.—About the middle of last night, the horse I had received a present from General Robinson, disliking his situation certainly more than I did mine, bad as I found it, jumped overboard. With much difficulty we got him in again, and to prevent any further desperate attempts of the kind, secured him.

with strong ropes. One of my Indian friends of Crata, learning our detention, kindly sent the half of a fine hog. It came most opportunely, and prevented a sentence being carried into execution, which had been previously passed on some of the poultry in our coops.

Saturday, 19th.—Our prospect not amending, the captain of our vessel suggested a return to our former station, the Indian Settlement. “What is the life of man! Is it not to shift from side to side; from sorrow to sorrow? To button up one cause of vexation, and to unbutton another?” So writes Sterne, and who can disagree with him? Hope prevailing that a change might suddenly happen in our favour, we remained at our anchorage.

Sunday, 20th. }

Monday, 21st. }

Tuesday, 22d. }

At anchor.

Wednesday, 23d.—At noon, the wea-

ther looking more kind, and the wind proving less adverse, we weighed anchor, and once more passed the bar of Caratasca. On the outside of it, we found a very heavy sea, but our breeze proving yet more fair, this was no very painful inconvenience.

Thursday, 24th.—Light showers during the morning, with a moderate breeze from the east-south-east. The remainder of the day fine and pleasant. At night the wind was entirely against us.

Friday, 25th,—The wind from the north-east, with much sea. Bonacca in sight, bearing from us north-west, distant about five leagues. At twelve becalmed, with rain and thunder. Towards evening, we had a breeze which soon increased to a gale, and that blew during the whole night with great violence. The rain fell in torrents, and the sea continually breaking over our small vessel rendered our situation extremely unpleasant.

I have before mentioned my circumscribed sphere on board, a space of six feet by four ; this could not be found very agreeable during our finest weather, but how much worse did it prove this night, when the hatches were necessarily forced to be closed ? but which, though I was nearly deprived of the power of respiration, did not prevent my being almost drowned with sea and rain.

Saturday, 26th.—The storm did not abate until the afternoon of this day, at which time we made the small island of Barbarette, not without some danger, from the violence of the sea and the narrowness of a passage between the rocks. We gained a tolerably good anchorage, and the weather still appearing relentless, I went on shore and built a hut on the beach. This was reared in a few minutes : it required only a few posts, and the leaves of the cocoa-nut tree, or of the palmetto ; and such materials were every

where around us. We had good fires made, cooked a rough repast, and prepared for sleep. I do not know how matters were with my fellow voyagers, but they passed rather indifferently with myself. It continued to rain heavily during the night, and the ground, and leaves which formed my bed, being extremely wet, rendered my situation cold, damp, and uncomfortable.

Sunday, 27th.—The storm returned with added violence. Our little encampment, if not thoroughly weather proof, was at least more pleasant than remaining on board. Some of the Indians rambling this forenoon along the sea beach, met with a fortunate, though here not an uncommon prize, a nest of turtle's eggs containing about 150. One of the soldiers along with me also shot an Indian rabbit, an animal something larger than a hare, the flesh of which is considered very delicate. We rested on the island,

and rather in a better way than on the preceding night.

Monday 28th.—During the forenoon I endeavoured to make some way on Barbarette, and, if possible, to ascend the high hills which immediately overtopped our station. However, I soon found this impracticable, from the extremely thick underwood which in every direction opposed my progress. With considerable reluctance I was therefore forced at a late hour to abandon the attempt.

Tuesday, 29th.—Were it not for that fertile and never-failing theme, the weather, of what would the greater part of the narratives of most voyagers and travellers consist? And certainly on this occasion, ours has been as various as the most epicurean weather-monger could wish. It rained throughout the night, and our lodging was in no shape enviable. As well as we were able, we endeavoured, however, to remain content

“ with our hard fate on the cold ground.” I before mentioned the danger we were in from the sea and rocks of Barbarette; my occasional walks along the beach have fully discovered, that our escape may not be considered the least fortunate event; hulls, masts, spars, &c. &c. the vestiges of former shipwreck, presenting themselves in every direction. The disappointment I felt yesterday forenoon, in not being able to gain the high land, served but to increase my ardour for another attempt this day. This was greatly encouraged at noon by the weather turning out particularly fine. An Indian bore me company, but not in the way of guide, as he was quite as ignorant of the way of ascending as myself. After a walk of about a mile and a half along the beach, in a contrary course to the one I had pursued the day before, we came to the rocks, and here, although our progress seemed less difficult to the eye, it

scarcely presented fewer obstacles to the feet. Difficulties, however, sink before determination. I was resolved to mount: to it therefore I went with hands and knees. After some trouble, I gained a firm station on a tolerable eminence: and without resorting to the extravagant and affected language sometimes used on similar occasions, I might truly say, the whole was enchantingly beautiful and picturesque. The spot on which I stood might be connected with a space of somewhat more than half an acre, entirely clear of trees, growing with high and luxuriant grass. Beyond this the whole became a thick continued grove,

— Where scarce a speck of day
Falls on the lengthen'd gloom. THOMSON.

At the bottom of the rock, the sea rolled with loud and haughty sway: and the confused masses of stone, which lay

scattered about, at once confessed its uncontrollable dominion.

Immediately opposite to this part of the island of Barbarette, at the distance of about a league, is placed the small adjoining island of Moratte. On the south-east, as far as the eye could reach, the high dark mountains of the continent in the neighbourhood of Truxillo terminated the view. In every other direction, the rest was sea. Curiosity not being yet satisfied, on looking around, my ambition aimed at a greater height : this could not be accomplished without first descending and searching another way up the rocks, a few hundred yards further along the shore, and this offered itself. I once more, but with increased difficulty, and certainly with much more danger, ascended : and if every thing before was pleasing, here all was grand. The height I gained was considerable : the objects

beneath had become quite diminished, whilst the sea rolled with added violence, and the rent crags seemed armed with terrors, which below, or in getting up, I did not discover or feel. I omit the description of Dover-cliff on this occasion, and abstain from recounting the precise number of scrapes and scratches which awaited my progress. The former is regularly served up whenever a hill or mountain is spoken of, from the one of Highgate to those of the Andes. The very pleasing way in which the greater part of this day had been occupied almost compensated for all that had proved unpleasant during my voyage.

Wednesday, 30th.—Last night, the most flattering signs of change were before us. At day-break, the whole had vanished, and heavy gusts of wind with rain gave us feelingly to understand that our departure from Barbarette would be further protracted. To add to our other

complaints, we were assailed in our hut by a host of uncommonly large ants, which proved altogether as troublesome as the flies of Caratasca. At noon the weather clearing, I again sallied forth, but a fresh storm arising, I was soon obliged to return. My excursion however, short as it was, did not terminate without an adventure. One of my servants, a few paces before me, passing through a thicket to avoid being too near the edge of a projecting rock, suddenly darted back with a loud exclamation. On my examining into the cause of this, the man certainly had very fair occasion for so violent an expression of his fears: he had just escaped the danger of placing his foot on the largest snake I ever beheld. It lay half hidden in the grass.—

In labyrinth of many a round self-roll'd. MILTON.

We instantly destroyed the reptile with an Indian lance I had with me. The ex-

treme bulk of it occasioned me to have it dragged to our hut and opened, when we found in its inside an Indian rabbit entire. I have before remarked that this animal is about the size of an English hare; and this did not appear a small specimen of the kind. Certainly the power of fascination, as it has often been contended, or a very extraordinary share of stratagem, must be the natural property of some species of the snake; or why animals, at least as wary, and certainly possessed of much superior powers of swiftness, are thus surprised, must occasion some astonishment.

Thursday, 31st.—Yesterday completed our eighth day since we departed from the mouth of Caratasca Lagoon. With a tolerably fair wind, it is little more than a day's sail from the place we were now at. And what I had feared would be the consequence of so tedious a voyage began now to present itself, a scarcity of

provisions. But an excursion of some of the Indians, my fellow voyagers, into the woods was attended this forenoon with particularly good fortune. They returned with no less than five wild hogs. "Not larger or fatter ever ranged the Lucanian forests." To an Indian the alternate vicissitudes of fasting and feasting are common occurrences. Those with me, for some days, had partaken rather largely of the former dish; chance having now placed one of more substantial shape before them, they determined not to let the advantage escape them. The five hogs were barbecued at once—a Roman meal!

The company soon collected round an immense fire in front of my habitation. An Indian youth occasionally regaled his fellows with a tune on an instrument peculiar to their country. Much could not be said of the sweetness of its tones, or the skill of the performer on it; but

as they seemed greatly delighted with both, that I was not equally charmed, must in all probability have been owing to my want of ear or taste for Mosquito music. Nor did the repast cease, day or night, except for short intervals granted to sleep, until the whole was consumed. There are many modes of driving off care : some do it by sleeping ; others attempt it by drinking ; an Indian does it effectually by eating.

Friday, Nov. 1.	} On the island of
Saturday, 2.	
Sunday, 3.	
	Barbarette.

Monday, 4th.—Incessant storms of wind and rain. “ King William was of opinion, and please your honour, quoth Trim, that every thing was predestined for us in this world.” It has ever been my fortune, in contradiction to every wish of my own, to have something continually to do with the sea. Now had my inclination been in the least degree

consulted in this matter, it would, without hesitation, have at once negatived my ever putting foot on ship-board. I had rather, were it possible, and the strength and spirits were given to support me in the attempt, make the tour of the world on foot, nay, I had almost said, barefooted, than pass the narrow strait between Dover and Calais. During a short walk this morning, an old Indian with a most woeful countenance told me he was afraid Potpruan would seize the whole of us, should we remain much longer on Barbarette. This was a most serious piece of intelligence, for Potpruan, in the Mosquito vocabulary, is no less a personage than Death, whose fell power oft

Shakes the feeble props of human trust. POPE.

I was half way on the same road of thought before the old man opened his mouth: this hurried me to the end of it with precipitation.

Tuesday, 5th.—The night was passed in my old residence, the hut on shore, but without sleep during any portion of it, owing to the vexatious torments of a vile insect called the sand-fly. Such now became my anxiety to make our way, that this morning, though the wind was far from fair, I suggested putting to sea. We therefore quitted Barbarette at eleven, and passed between it and the adjacent island of Moratte. I have already observed, that the passage between these islands is narrow and hazardous, and that none but small vessels can safely attempt it. The reef which runs parallel with them is also dangerous and rocky. The sea on the outside ran extremely high; and the wind shortly after became entirely opposed to us. By persevering, however, we succeeded in again making the larger island of Ruatan. Here our further progress was suddenly stopped by the breaking in two of our main-boom.

As it was now impossible to proceed, we made the best way we could towards the shore; to find a place of anchorage, that we might repair our damage: this was gained about an hour after we had met with our accident; and some of the Indians and myself went on shore with our guns in search of game: but the discovery of some human tracks on the sand caused my companions immediately to decline the pursuit. The island of Ruatan, as has been previously remarked, belongs to Spain, and on it is retained a small military station. This circumstance instantly occasioned the Mosquito-men to determine, that the tracks they had seen could be no other than those of the Spaniards, and as quickly urged them to return on board.

Wednesday, 6th.—The morning proving fine and pleasant, and our damage being repaired, we lost no time in getting under weigh. The course we pur-

sued lay close in with the shore; with any other but a vessel of small burden this would have been impracticable from the numerous coral-rocks in the passage. The side of the island of Ruatan we passed appeared hilly and covered with wood. The continued length of the beach, which is computed at ten leagues, is an entire grove of cocoa-nut trees. Towards the middle of the day we were becalmed, with rain and much heavy thunder.

Thursday, 7th.—At anchor off Ruatan.

Friday, 8th.—Morning. We remained at anchor, but the weather considerably amending about noon we once more put to sea. The early part of the night was fine and pleasant with a favourable breeze from the N. E. Towards the middle of it, the sky became thickly overcast, and the wind greatly increased.

Saturday, 9th.—At day break it blew a gale, but happily from the right quarter. We were completely drenched from

the sea continually breaking over us. At two in the afternoon, we once more discovered Glover's-reef immediately ahead of us, and at four got to anchor at the key of the same name, the place we called at on our passage out.

Sunday, 10th.—At anchor, the wind blowing with great violence from the N.N.W. With a moderate and fair breeze, we were now within eight hours sail of the end of our voyage, a conviction that could not in any way contribute to render the situation to which we were fixed agreeable. The north-west winds, or norths, as they are termed in this part of the world, prevail at this season of the year, and blow with little variation frequently for a continuance of some weeks. Yesterday finished my last plantain; to a single one I had been limited for several days, our bread having long been expended.

Monday,	11th.	} At anchor.
Tuesday,	12th.	
Wednesday,	13th.	

Thursday, 14th.—This morning the wind shifted a little in our favour, and we were soon under sail. Shortly afterwards the high mountains of the continent again appeared bearing from us W.S.W. The day continued fine until towards evening, when it rained and thundered. The wind not proving altogether fair, we attempted to get under the main land to catch the breeze from the shore, and at day-break we were off the small settlement of Mullin's river, a distance of about twenty leagues from our home. The wind being now entirely against us, I went on shore at this Settlement, and obtained from the kindness and hospitality of a mulatto woman, an inhabitant of it, an excellent breakfast of tea, bread, eggs, &c. The sameness, and I may add, the spareness of the diet,

on which I had fared so many days before, gave this repast a zest of unusual excellence. But I cannot help most gratefully observing, that in the midst of so much adverse weather, it must ever be considered a very fortunate circumstance, that it awaited us in situations so happily formed by nature for the convenience of man. For, of the different islands among which we had been so many days delayed, I believe scarcely one could be found that would not be capable, from the fruits with which at most seasons it abounds, of affording him sustenance for a considerable time.

Friday, 15th.—After a night of much anxiety, and continual tacking, returning day brought to our view the pleasing sight of Balize at a short distance; and with it, the still more agreeable prospect of a speedy termination to our voyage. The wind towards noon was entirely favourable. At three the anchor drop-

ped. I immediately landed, and as I walked to head-quarters, felt still more confirmed in my attachment to terra firma, and abhorrence of all maritime excursions.

SKETCHES
OF THE
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS
OF THE
MOSQUITO INDIANS.

Peaceful beneath primeval trees

What is the world to them?

Its pomp, its pleasure, and its nonsense all!

THOMPSON.

THE Mosquito Indians inhabit a considerable space of country on the continent of America, nearly extending from Point Castile, or Cape Honduras, the southern point of the Bay of Truxillo, to the northern branch of the river Nicaragua, called usually St. Juan's; and

comprehending within these limits nearly 100 leagues of land on the sea coast, from latitude 11 to 16 deg. A chain of high mountains may be considered as the natural barrier between their nation and the Spanish possessions in this part of the world.

These people have long been in alliance with the King of Great Britain, and entertain generally a most exalted opinion of the justice and magnanimity of the English, and a perfect detestation of their neighbours the Spaniards. A tradition has long prevailed amongst them, that the grey-eyed people, meaning the English, have been particularly appointed to protect them from oppression or bondage. And they may enviably be classed with the very few tribes whose liberties have remained uninterrupted by European aggression on this side the Atlantic.

The soil they inhabit is abundantly

fertile, and capable of many modes of cultivation. Indian corn of the finest quality, plantains, cassava-root, varieties of the yam and sweet potatoe, are plentifully raised from it. The sugar-cane, cotton and tobacco thrive equally well; and in the mountainous situations, coffee, no doubt, might be produced, not inferior to that which is raised in the West India Islands.

In this country there is also plenty of mahogany, and many other kinds of wood, which might probably meet the purposes of ornamental use extremely well. But the entire want of harbours of sufficient depth for any vessels but those of the smallest burden must prevent any material advantage resulting from these sources. Several species of dye-wood are likewise found, some of which are used in colouring a coarse kind of cloth, the manufacture of the natives. We learn from Mr. Edwards, Hist. West

Indies, vol i. p. 55, 56, that as early as the discovery of Columbus, the people of the islands he visited were found abundantly furnished with a substantial cotton cloth of native manufacture. This they stained with various colours, but the one they most admired was red. A common origin, to go no further, may perhaps be affixed to the inhabitants of the different islands in this part of the Western world and the people of the adjacent continent; hence the striking conformity in manners, customs, &c., which have been so frequently traced as characteristic of both.

The rivers flowing through this extensive country are very numerous, and most of them are navigable a considerable distance for canoes or small vessels. The many spacious Lagoons with which it abounds render it also, in a picturesque point of view, singularly interesting.

Of the former, the most deserving of notice are, Black, or Rio-Tinto, Plan-

tain, Patook, Poyers, great and little, Cape, Coree, Towkcas, Bluefields, &c. Of the latter, Black-river, Brewers, Caratasca, Wava, Pearl-key, Blue-fields, &c.

Fishes of infinite variety are the inhabitants of both; and the neighbouring grounds abound with deer, antelopes, warree, and peccary. Birds of various species, adorned with all the richness of plumage so peculiar to tropical situations, enliven every spot. And the whole of these may be viewed as almost holding an undisturbed possession of their native haunts; for necessity alone, and that of the most imperious kind, can ever impel the Indian to seek for either.

The cattle are small, but, from the vast extent and excellence of the pasturage, the meat they supply is fat and extremely well flavoured. Horses are also very numerous, and, though generally small, not unhandsome. Hogs are raised

in extraordinary numbers ; and poultry of all kinds is abundant and large.

Many of the Mosquito Indians are of a mixed breed, between that of the aboriginal and the negro of the Samba country. Accident produced this variety, from the circumstance of an African slave-ship, many years past, having been wrecked on their coast, from which several women were saved, and who were immediately chosen by the natives for wives.

The men in general are athletic and well formed. Their height, on an average, may be taken at five feet eight. The women are frequently handsome ; their children, when young, are particularly so. Their habits and intercourse with each other denote much affection, the old and the young being found in continual association.

They wear little cloathing. Seldom

any thing more, men and women, than a small kind of wrapper, which reaches from the lower part of the waist to the middle of the thigh. On particular occasions, the chief men usually appear in British regimentals, the military titles of which nation they invariably adopt. Many of them hold commissions from the Governor of Jamaica, and from his Majesty's Superintendant of Honduras. The women are in the habit of decorating their persons with a profusion of beads, to which species of finery they are passionately attached, and very commonly paint their faces and necks with a kind of red ochre, which is found in their country. Their children go entirely naked; and, when young, are always borne on the back of the mother. Amongst these people, all the offices of the domestic kind are exclusively performed by the female: the male would be degraded by such services.

Their dwellings are formed in a style of the rudest simplicity, being little more than a number of rough poles placed perpendicularly in the ground, and roofed with the leaves of the palmetto tree. They are usually large, and left entirely open at the sides. The floor is of clay, and in the centre of it is the fire-place. These habitations seldom contain more than one apartment, and this commonly affords accommodation to several families. The bed of each, a mat, is placed on what is called a *barbecu*, a frame made of sticks, and raised a few feet from the ground. This, with a few earthen pots for cookery, are the chief articles of furniture.

The government of the Mosquito Indians is hereditary ; and a very exact and perfect idea of the British law of succession is entertained by them. It is a subject which engages much of their attention, from its having long been one of close imitation amongst themselves. In-

deed, it would perhaps be found, that many points of our doctrine of primogeniture are much more accurately understood by these people than by some who are more immediately interested in such discussions. It certainly is not unfrequent to find Indians in this nation, at least those of the superior class, capable of discoursing on such topics with a precision that might reflect no discredit on a civilian.

The late King, George, was murdered, and his death attributed very openly to the designs of his brother, Prince Stephen. The former was unalterably attached to the English; the latter, it is confidently pronounced, has been seduced by bribery to very opposite interests, and with which he has sedulously attempted to infect his countrymen. The schemes of Prince Stephen, however, have met with little success; which has principally arisen from the unremitted

and active vigilance of General Robinson, one of the next persons in point of consequence to the royal family, and who contrives to preserve a kind of regency until the son and heir of the late king shall become of age to take upon himself the business of government. The present king is but a youth, and some years ago was sent to Jamaica to be educated under the direction and guidance of the Governor of that island.

The laws of these people are simple and concise. The legislative and judicial power, as it usually happens in nations where no fixed principles of either have been acquired, resides exclusively in the will of him who governs. The king, or chief, is completely despotic. Whenever he dispatches a messenger, his commands are always accompanied by his cane: this token establishes the credibility of the bearer, and a sudden compliance with the purport of his errand. In this way de-

crees are enforced, the punishment due to offence remitted, or the severest sentence annexed to it carried into instant execution.*

They have one law against adultery which has something curious in it. The fine imposed on the offender is, that he pay the injured husband an ox. This penalty, the head man of the particular tribe to which the adulterer belongs, is strictly bound by long custom to see punctually complied with, or one of his own cattle may be taken as a lawful indemnity. Should the latter happen, the chief then exacts, as an equivalent for what he loses by the offence, a stated period of servitude from the offender.

In this country there is neither priest, physician, or lawyer ; but there is a professor of another science, who commonly

* See Robertson's *Hist. America*, Vol. iii. p, 333, 10th Ed.

unites the duties of the three; this is the Sokee, or Conjuror, a person of high importance, and whose occult skill is ever regarded with the deepest and most implicit veneration.

They have no modes of public worship, nor could any particular forms of religious persuasion be found to prevail amongst them. There is little doubt, however, of their paying adoration to evil spirits, from a singular belief which is entertained, that they have much more inconvenience to apprehend from the influence of the bad than the good.

In common with most, if not with all rude tribes, polygamy is freely allowed, and a plurality of wives is the privilege of every husband in the Mosquito nation; but perhaps it has seldom been indulged in equal extent in any country. Many men here claim from two to six wives; few can be found satisfied with one: their late king surpassed all his subjects in this

respect, he claimed no less than twenty two! His Mosquito Majesty might very well have exclaimed with honest Launcelot—"Alas! fifteen wives is nothing."

At the same time it may be observed, that this circumstance is attended with far less inconvenience than might possibly be found annexed to it in most other situations, the numerous claimants for the affection or favour of their lord never discovering the least jealousy or hatred towards each other.

The females are taken for wives at a very tender age, frequently when they have scarcely attained their tenth year. At the hour of their birth, the contract for their destination in this respect is not uncommonly formed with the husband and their parents. And from what would seem so premature an engagement, that which usually discovers itself in this sex must be expected to happen, an early appearance of advanced years. It

is likewise observed, a natural consequence of the above, that the duration of life between the sexes is found greatly disproportionate.

A singular custom is scrupulously observed by the women of this nation. At the time of parturition, an habitation is prepared for them in the deepest recesses of the woods, to which, with a female assistant, they retire, and where they remain secluded from every eye for a stated period. This past, a public lustration of themselves and offspring must take place previous to their being again admitted to the society of their relatives and friends.

These Indians may in one respect be thought to resemble the Improvisatori of some other countries. Their metrical effusions being entirely spontaneous, and usually thrown into a kind of measure, which, if it be rude and uncultivated, possesses, nevertheless, something peculiarly soft and plaintive to recommend it.

The subjects which excite their verse are chiefly of the latter description.

In a political point of view, an alliance with the Mosquito Indians can be considered but of relative importance. They hold little pretention to the character of warlike, the last quality, however, that humanity might wish to contemplate them in; nor are there any advantages of a commercial nature resulting from such connexion. The implacable enmity they have ever borne towards one nation, our frequent foe, from what cause it may be unnecessary to inquire, is perhaps the best claim they can offer for the extension of our friendship.

This nation cannot number at the utmost more than 1500 or 2000 men capable of using arms. Immediately contiguous to it are two other tribes, called the Poyers and the Towkcas. These people are more numerous, and consider-

ed much more enterprising and brave, although they are tributary to the former, and have been so from time immemorial. The acknowledgment of this dependance is expressed by the annual payment of a certain number of cattle. But neither the Poyers or Towkcas possess any thing like the civilization of the Mosquito people. Hence unquestionably the cause and continuance of their vassalage.

In conclusion, from all that could be observed during a short residence amongst these Indians, it appeared they were living in the enjoyment of much social happiness, and with a comparative degree of plenty. That their comforts and convenience might be greatly increased were they more industrious, seemed no less obvious; but exertion of any kind is in no shape their characteristic.

*Signification in English of some Words in
the Mosquito Tongue.*

Cortee	God, or Moon
Lapta	Sun
Yoo	Day
Toma	Night
Teetan	Morning
Tootenee	Afternoon
Tusba	Land
Corboo	Sea
Passa	Wind
Lee	Rain
Alwonna	Thunder
Powta	Lightning
Awolla	River
Ootla	House
Bip	Cow, or Bull
Oras	Horse
Querco	Hog
Cullila	Fowl

Yowell	Dog
Wykenar	Man
Myrin	Woman
Lupee	Child
Opliker	Friend
Oplawalla . . .	Enemy
Isau	Father
Yaptee	Mother
Luper-Myrin .	Daughter
Moyka	Brother
Lykera	Sister
Dama	Grandfather
Coka	Grandmother
Wykenikee . .	Husband
Moya	Wife
Weeta	Chief
Wyteniva . . .	Head, chief, or first man
Iclarbare . . .	War
Markaswip . .	Peace
Warmanana . .	Soldier
Rokpuse	Gun
Rokpuse-tara .	Great Gun
Tara	Great

Mun Me

Nowree You

Balamna I come

Makhomena *or* }
 Makwopee } I go

Yamnee Good

Soura Bad

Wollosma ... Hear me

Nee I hear

Ploonadogsa . Hunger, or I am hungry

Ploonaryka .. Give me to eat

Mislaryka ... Give me to drink

Outlaryka .. Give me lodging

Oya Corn, or bread

Weree I am sick

Weree-dowkee I am very sick

Potpruan Death

Yapee Sleep

Itenikee A rest, or loll

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE

Kept at Balise in the Bay of Honduras.

FEBRUARY, 1806.

Height of Fahrenheit's Thermometer.				General State of Weather.
Day of Month.	Morn.	Noon.	Winds.	
1	70	83	N.	Morning rain. Noon clear
2	69	83	E.S.E.	Clear and fine
3	68	81	E.	Clear
4	71	80	E.S.E.	Clear
5	74	81	E.	Clear
6	79	82	E.	Clear
7	80	80	N.E.	Clear
8	79	81	E.	Clear
9	79	80	S.E.	Showery during the day
10	78	82	S.E.	Ditto
11	79	81	E.S.E.	Clear
12	78	80	E.	Clear
13	80	81	S.E.	Clear
14	81	81	S.E.	Occasional showers
15	73	80	N.	Morning foggy. Noon fine
16	71	78	N.E.	Cloudy with rain
17	72	80	E.	Rain
18	76	79	E.N.E.	Clear
19	78	80	E.	Clear
20	79	81	E.	Clear
21	76	80	E.	Clear
22	75	82	E.N.E.	Morning rain. Noon clear
23	78	82	E.N.E.	Rain. Strong breezes
24	71	78	N.E.	Rain
25	74	79	N.	Rain
26	72	78	N.	Rain. Strong winds
27	71	79	N.	Clear. Ditto winds
28	68	79	N.	Rain. Blowing hard

Remarks.—Heavy rain generally during the night; frequent heavy showers in the day. This month, being included in what is denoted the *dry season*, the rains that have fallen have, therefore, been considered unusual.

MARCH, 1806.

Height of Fahrenheit's Thermometer.				General State of Weather.
Day of Month.	Morn.	Noon.	Winds.	
1	68	80	N.	Clear
2	69	78	N.	Clear
3	69	75	N.	Cloudy and moist
4	74	78	N.E.	Cloudy and wet
5	76	79	N.E.	Rain. Clear at noon
6	79	81	E.S.E.	Clear
7	78	81	S.E.	Clear
8	78	82	S.E.	Clear
9	77	81	S.E.	Clear. Noon showery
10	80	82	E.	Clear. Noon rain
11	77	83	S.E.	Clear
12	80	83	E.N.E.	Clear
13	79	83	N.E.	Cloudy
14	79	82	N.E.	Clear. Noon showery
15	80	83	E.N.E.	Clear
16	80	84	S.E.	Clear. Noon sultry, with showers
17	72	82	N.	Clear
18	80	83	N.E.	Clear
19	80	83	N.E.	Clear
20	80	83	N.E.	Clear
21	81	84	E.N.E.	Showery
22	80	83	E.	Clear
23	80	85	E.S.E.	Clear
24	73	80	N.	Cloudy and moist
25	74	80	N.	Cloudy
26	75	83	E.N.E.	Light rains
27	80	83	N.E.	Clear
28	82	84	N.E.	Clear
29	79	83	N.E.	Clear
30	76	83	S.E.	Showery morning. Clear noon
31	79	83	S.E.	Clear morning. Showery noon

Remarks.—The greater part of this month has been dry and pleasant. Light dews at night. The sea breeze, which usually prevails with much regularity at this season, has been partial and moderate.

APRIL, 1806.

Height of Fahrenheit's Thermometer.				General State of Weather.
Day of Month.	Morn.	Noon.	Winds.	
1	81	86	S. E.	Clear and Sultry
2	80	85	S.	Clear morning. Evening rain and loud thunder
3	79	84	N. E.	Morning cool and hazy ; noon fine
4	80	85	S. E.	Clear
5	81	85	S. E.	Clear. Noon thunder
6	81	86	S.	Clear
7	81	86	S. E.	Clear
8	78	85	S. E.	Clear
9	81	85	S. E.	Clear
10	82	85	S. E.	Clear
11	80	86	E. S. E.	Clear. Strong breezes
12	82	86	S. E.	Clear. Ditto
13	82	86	S. E.	Clear. Ditto
14	83	85	S. E.	Clear. Ditto
15	82	84	S. E.	Clear. Ditto
16	81	85	E. S. E.	Clear. Noon rain
17	82	87	S.	Clear morning. Noon rain and thunder
18	81	86	S. E.	Clear
19	82	86	E.	Clear
20	75	83	E. N. E.	Cloudy morning ; noon fair
21	82	85	N. W.	Clear morning ; noon rain and hail
22	81	85	N. E.	Clear. Hazy and damp to- wards noon
23	82	84	E. N. E.	Clear
24	75	85	N.	Heavy rains during the greater part of the day
25	82	86	E.	Clear and sultry
26	81	85	S. E.	Clear
27	83	86	E. S. E.	Clear morning ; noon rain and thunder
28	80	84	S. E.	Clear
29	81	85	S. E.	Clear
30	82	84	S. E.	Clear

Remarks.—The whole of this month has been particularly fine, and the breezes regular and strong. Rains with loud thunder, frequent during the night ; sometimes accompanied with sudden and violent gusts of wind.

MAY, 1866.

Height of Fahrenheit's Thermometer.				General State of Weather.
Day of Month.	Morn.	Noon.	Winds.	
1	82	85	E.S.E.	Clear
2	80	84	E.S.E.	Clear
3	83	86	S.	Morning clear. Noon sultry with rain
4	81	85	S.	Clear
5	81	84	S.E.	Clear
6	79	83	S.E.	Morning rain. Noon clear
7	81	84	E.S.E.	Clear
8	83	85	E.S.E.	Clear; occasional showers
9	82	85	S.E.	Clear
10	80	84	S.E.	Clear
11	81	85	E.S.E.	Clear
12	80	86	S.E.	Clear and sultry
13	80	84	S.E.	Clear
14	81	84	S.E.	Clear
15	82	85	E.S.E.	Clear
16	83	85	S.E.	Clear. Noon light showers
17	80	85	S.	Light showers, breezes fresh occasionally
18	81	83	S.	Clear
19	82	85	E.S.E.	Clear
20	82	87	E.S.E.	Clear. Winds high during night
21	82	85	E.S.E.	Morning cloudy. Noon clear. Breezes strong.
22	83	85	E.S.E.	Clear
23	82	84	E.S.E.	Clear
24	83	86	S.	Clear and sultry
25	82	86	S.	Clear
26	81	85	E.	Cloudy
27	83	87	S.E.	Cloudy
28	82	86	S.E.	Heavy clouds
29	83	87	S.E.	Cloudy. Heavy showers at noon
30	82	85	S.	Rain
31	82	86	E.S.E.	Showery morning. Heavy rains towards evening

Remarks.—This month has been particularly dry, but exceedingly pleasant from the regularity and strength of the sea-breeze. The conclusion of it, however, being cloudy, and attended with frequent heavy showers, shows the approach of the periodical rains. This month, the earlier part of it especially, is generally very destructive to cattle, which suffer much from want of water.

JUNE, 1806.

Height of Fahrenheit's Thermometer.				General State of Weather.
Day of Month.	Morn.	Noon.	Winds.	
1	81	84	S. E.	Heavy rains ; light winds
2	82	85	S.	Saltry rains, and during the whole of the night
3	83	84	S. E.	Continued rains with loud thunder
4	81	83	S. E.	Showery during the day : stormy at night, violent thunder
5	81	84	E. N. E.	Rains with thunder
6	80	81	N. E.	Blowing hard. Noon showery
7	80	84	N. E.	Clear
8	84	86	E. N. E.	Clear
9	81	86	S.	Heavy rains
10	83	85	E.	Clear and blowing strong
11	83	86	N. E.	Clear, blowing fresh
12	82	86	E.	Clear, Ditto
13	83	86	N. E.	Morning fine : noon rain with gusts of wind
14	83	85	E. N. E.	Clear and blowing hard
15	81	78	E. N. E.	Cloudy. Mid-day heavy rains
16	78	84	N. E.	Morning heavy rains with much thunder
17	82	84	E.	Cloudy and blowing hard
18	83	85	E.	Cloudy blowing hard
19	82	85	N. E.	Clear high wind
20	83	85	E.	Clear
21	82	85	E. N. E.	Clear
22	82	85	E. N. E.	Clear morning. Noon showers
23	83	84	N. E.	Clear
24	81	83	E.	Rain during night, ditto part of day Thunder
25	76	84	S. W.	Cloudy, with showers
26	82	85	E. N. E.	Clear
27	82	85	E.	Clear
28	81	84	N. E.	Clear.
29	77	83	E. N. E.	Rain and thunder
30	81	83	N. E.	Cloudy. Noon clear

Remarks.—The wet season generally commences in the early part of this month, about the 10th, and continues throughout the whole of the remainder of it. This season, the rains have set in earlier than common. Thunder at this time is also frequent, and often tremendously violent.

JULY, 1806.

Height of Fahrenheit's Thermometer.				General State of Weather.
Day of Month.	Morn.	Noon.	Winds.	
1	82	85	E. N. E.	Clear
2	82	86	S. E.	Clear. Noon cloudy
3	82	84	E.	Clear
4	82	85	E.	Rain, high winds and loud thunder
5	82	85	S. E.	Clear morning. Noon heavy showers
6	82	84	E. S. E.	Clear
7	83	85	E.	Clear
8	80	84	E. S. E.	Clear and blowing strong
9	77	86	S.	Heavy rains, violent thunder storm
10	80	85	S. E.	Clear
11	83	85	S. E.	Clear, vivid lightning during night
12	84	85	E. S. E.	Clear
13	83	85	S. E.	Clear, blowing hard
14	83	80	S. E.	Clear morning. Noon heavy rain
15	82	80	E.	Rain
16	82	83	S. E.	Morning fine, noon rain and thunder
17	77	84	N. E.	Heavy rains
18	78	83	W.	Cloudy with showers
19	79	82	N. E.	Rain, loud thunder during night
20	80	83	N. E.	Squally with thunder
21	82	83	E.	Rain and thunder
22	82	86	E.	Showery
23	81	83	S. E.	Clear
24	80	83	N. E.	Clear, blowing fresh
25	80	85	E.	High winds and showery
26	81	86	E.	Clear
27	81	85	W.	Cloudy, with showers
28	80	86	W.	Ditto, wind and rain
29	76	87	N. W.	Thick fog and sultry
30	82	86	W.	Sultry
31	77	87.	W.	Rain with much lightning and heavy thunder

Remarks.—The weather for the greater part of this month has been unsettled and stormy; much vivid lightning, chiefly during the nights, and frequently accompanied with loud thunder.

AUGUST, 1806.

Height of Fahrenheit's Thermometer.				General State of Weather.
Day of Month.	Morn.	Noon.	Winds.	
1	77	87	W.	Cloudy. Noon sultry with thunder
2	77	85	W.	Cloudy and sultry
3	80	86	W.	Sultry, much thunder during night
4	82	87	E. S. E.	Clear
5	82	85	E.	Clear
6	83	86	E.	Clear, blowing fresh
7	84	79	E.	Noon rain and thunder
8	83	85	E. N. E.	Clear
9	81	82	N. E.	Showery with high winds.
10	77	80	W.	Cloudy and wet, thunder during night
11	82	85	E.	Clear
12	82	85	N. E.	Clear morning. Showery noon
13	81	85	E.	Clear
14	82	85	F.	Clear
15	82	86	E. S. E.	Clear
16	80	80	E.	Clear morning. Noon heavy rains
17	77	85	W.	Cloudy and showery
18	82	86	E.	Clear
19	81	86	E.	Clear
20	82	86	E. S. E.	Clear
21	79	87	W.	Showery
22	82	87	F.	Clear
23	82	85	E. N. E.	Clear
24	83	85	E.	Clear, blowing hard
25	82	86	E. N. E.	Clear
26	83	86	E.	Clear
27	82	86	E.	Clear
28	83	85	E.	Clear
29	83	86	E. S. E.	Clear
30	78	86	W.	Light rains and cloudy
31	77	84	S.	Rains and loud thunder

Remarks.—The greater part of this month has been extremely close and sultry. Frequent and heavy thunder storms have also prevailed.

THE END.

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